Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Kilili running unopposed for 5th term in Congress

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More individuals beat the deadline yesterday in filing their candidacies, bringing to a total of 66 persons running for 36 seats up for grabs in the Nov. 8 general election.

Sablan

» 66 running for 36 seats at the Nov. 8 election

U.S. Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking his fifth term, is running unopposed. First elected in 2008, Sablan became the first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the CNMI.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will also be in the ballot for his retention

See KILILI on Page 4

Section 902 talks still ongoing in Hawaii

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

The second round of Section 902 talks began early this week in Hawaii with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres leading the CNMI delegation in a dialogue with Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina. The meeting is set from Aug. 8 to 12.

Torres left the CNMI last Monday together with his chief of staff Matt Deleon Guerrero, legal counsel Wes Bogdan, department secretaries Edith Deleon Guerrero (Labor) and Marianne C. Teregeyo (Public Lands), Senate vice president

See 902 on Page 4

DPW in need of additional engineers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is hoping to hire more personnel, especially engineers, so they could function properly. They are asking for a budget of close to $4 million in yesterday's hearing of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs at the Senate Chamber of the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

DPW administrative director Peter Camacho is asking for a budget of $3,745,467 for Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of $1,401,257 from FY's $2,344,210. He added that they submitted a revised budget after reviewing the first one they presented.

"When reviewing our budget, we noticed some things that are missing that would affect our department operations once the budget is passed. We want to make sure all things are

See DPW on Page 4

DRIVING ON THE BEACH FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A group of men try to pull out Mustang and Camaro rental cars that got stuck on the beach near San Jose-Atkins Kroll intersection yesterday afternoon. Police officers responded to the scene after they received a call that tourists drove the two cars along the shoreline. The two drivers were given traffic citations for driving the vehicles on the beach.

INSIDE

WORLD
Turkey's president cozied up to his "dear friend" Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in a visit intended to send a message to his allies in the West.

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FOCUS
Hwang Yu-mi went worked bathing silicon wafers in chemicals at a Samsung factory that makes computer chips for laptops and other devices. Four years later, she died of leukemia.

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LIFE & STYLE
A hearing on Amber Heard's allegations that Johnny Depp physically abused her is expected to last up to a week.

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Local

Santos wants Medical Referral under essential service list

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) filed an unnumbered Senate Bill that would include the Medical Referral Program's personnel part of the essential service list in the CNMI that would entitle its employees overtime pay if they work more than 80 hours per pay period.

Santos said the program has been providing medical assistance especially to patients under Medicaid since its primary service is for health, safety, and the welfare of the people. The Medical Referral Program has a 24-hour operation, seven days a week, and it is the only government agency that has offices in Guam, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

Santos

The Medical Referral office in the CNMI is currently understaffed as it only has six personnel and that's why they still need to extend their work hours in order to complete the cases that need attention and to also perform their respective duties.

The staff, however, are only given compensatory time that they cannot use. Employees that are under compensatory time are just only given times off instead of overtime pay. Santos said civil service only allows government employees to accrue or earn compensatory time.

She said the Medical Referral office sends a monthly average of about 65 patients to Guam, close to 28 to Hawaii, and 20 to the Philippines. "Let's say there's an average of 200 patients a month and you only have six employees. Can you imagine the workload of one employee?"

"You have to process all the documents of these patients that also include medical evacuation and other emergency cases. You need all of their documents like patient's history, medical records, vital signs, etc.," said Santos.

"You need all of these documents in processing for medical referral. You must make sure all of the papers are there before you send it to the hospital where they are referred to," added Santos.

Santos said this is why she wants a remedy as Public Law 18-56 only addresses funding sources of the Medical Referral Program. "It does not address the concern that Medical Referral Employees to be considered in essential service."

"They should be included, if employees of other departments are considered in essential service then why not personnel in the Medical Referral Program. We're talking about health, we're talking about life and death of a medical referral patient," Santos added.

She said with the Medical Referral Program being an essential service, it is just proper to pay its employees overtime to ensure continuity of the duties and obligations they provide to the people of the CNMI. ***(Jon Perez)***

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will hold a Public Hearing on;

DATE	TIME	ISLAND	VENUE
AUGUST 17, 2016	5:00-6:00 PM	ROTA	ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE
AUGUST 22, 2016	5:00-6:00 PM	TINIAN	TINIAN YOUTH CENTER
AUGUST 24, 2016	5:30-6:30 PM	SAIPAN	KAGMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the 2017 LIHEAP Model Plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for eligible households in the CNMI.

Copies of the LIHEAP Model Plan and the Agenda of the public hearing will be available for public inspection beginning Friday, August 12, 2016, at the DCCA-LIHEAP office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Road, building #1339 and on the web at dcca.gov.mp. Persons wishing to schedule testimony or receive a copy of the LIHEAP Model Plan should contact DCCA-LIHEAP at 664-2574 or 664-2587.

Public Comments are due by August 26, 2016. You may submit your comments via dcca.gov.mp or the contacts listed below.

Mailing Address: Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Contact #: DCCA-LIHEAP 664-2574 or 287-2577
DCCA Secretary's Office 664-2577/2587/2588

Email Address: Resel Billy, LIHEAP Coordinator (resel.billy@gmail.com)
Robert Hunter, DCCA Secretary (roberthhunter@gmail.com)

'Right time for me to take my shot'

JON PEREZ

L.J. Castro signs his certificate of candidacy yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission office at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center. Castro is seeking one of the three elective posts on the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Luis John "L.J." Castro believes this is the right time for him to seek public office that's why he's going to try and clinch one of the three seats on the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Castro filed his certificate of candidacy a few hours before the 5pm deadline yesterday at the Commonwealth Elections Commission at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center.

He was a former member of the CNMI Youth Congress, host of various events, an announcer in fights organized by Trench Tech Saipan, part of the cultural group Simiyan Mañaina-ta, and for almost two years now, a public information specialist at the Governor's Office.

Castro, more popularly known as L.J., said he believes that the office or the title of the person working in government does not matter. "Everybody that is involved in helping run the islands, their role is important."

"So I figured, now is the time for me to take my shot. My life has always revolved around public service. I started in public service during my Youth Congress days. And there are a lot of things that I learned there that I still use in my professional life," said Castro.

"That why I wanted to try to see what more I can do for our islands and our people. What other capacities I can give. I think, there's no better time than now."

Castro, if elected, said his focus would be working closely with the other members of the council and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. "We must look at the issues at the villages that needs attention."

"If elected, myself and other Municipal Council members must develop a good working relationship with the mayor. I always love working with the mayor and see what issues in our villages that need further attention."

He added that if he gets the chance to serve in the council, they would reach out to the other branches of the government to see what they could do to improve the islands. "All issues here affect all of us."

"That's why, if I would be given the chance, I'm looking forward to roll up my sleeves up and work, whether with old or new members of the Legislature, and find ways to address the issues that affects Saipan and the Northern Islands." ***(Jon Perez)***

Storm Conson may become typhoon

Packing maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour, Tropical Storm Conson is gaining strength and moving northwest closer to Saipan, according to the U.S. National Weather Service Guam.

As of 7pm yesterday, Conson's center was 390 miles south-southeast of Minami Tori Shima or about 675 miles east-northeast of Saipan or 785 miles east-northeast of Guam.

As of 1pm yesterday, Conson's center was 420 miles south-southeast of Minami Tori Shima or about 700 miles east-northeast of Saipan or 800 miles east-northeast of Guam.

Conson is expected to turn slowly north last night and Thursday with a slow increase in forward speed. It is expected to gradually strengthen over the next few days and may become a typhoon on Friday.

NWS warned mariners out on the Guam coastal waters to stay below deck if thunder is heard as dangerous lightning is possible with the heavy showers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Michael A. Jackson's retrial set for Oct. 11

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday set for Oct. 11, 2016 the retrial of Michael Anthony Jackson, a man facing charges of kidnapping and raping a then-15-year-old girl on Saipan.

At a status conference, Camacho also ordered the parties in the case to appear at the pre-trial conference on Sept. 14 at 9am.

Jackson appeared with his new court-appointed counsel, Charles Reyes. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

The retrial of Jackson was earlier set for Aug. 22, 2016.

Before Reyes, attorney Loren Sutton was appointed as counsel for Jackson after the defendant filed a disciplinary complaint against his eighth court-appointed counsel, Mun Su Park.

Sutton also later asked the court to withdraw as counsel for Jackson for some personal issues. Camacho granted the request.

Camacho earlier noted that Jackson had filed disciplinary complaints against his seven other court-appointed counsels in this case.

On April 26, 2013, the jury found Jackson guilty of kidnapping and sexual assault in the first degree. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charge, also found the defendant guilty of assault.

On May 15, 2013, Camacho slapped the then-34-year-old Jackson with a jail maximum term of 40 years and six months without possibility of parole.

Jackson then appealed. He asked the CNMI high court to reverse his convictions and remand the matter for a new trial, or in the alternative for re-sentencing.

At the appeal hearing, Park argued as court-appointed counsel for Jackson.

Last Dec. 30, the CNMI Supreme Court reversed the conviction and remanded Jackson's case to Superior Court for a new trial.

The justices ruled that Camacho erred in not repeating substantive jury instructions at the close of evidence.

The justices said closing instructions allow the jury to focus on the law, the evidence,

See MICHAEL on Page 4

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Blas family honors late lieutenant governor

The Blas family takes part in a wreath laying ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Great Seal of Guam Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., speaks to family members while his sister, Y'Buena Blas Quinata, holds a wreath during a wreath laying ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Great Seal of Guam Park.

The family of the late lieutenant governor Frank Flores Blas held a private ceremony this afternoon honoring their father for his work establishing the Great Seal of Guam Park in Hagåtña.

Blas passed away on Aug. 1, 2016 and his funeral Mass was held yesterday. A private burial service was held today with his family at Pigo Catholic Cemetery in Anigua.

Following the burial, the family proceeded to the Great Seal of Guam Park at Paseo and laid a wreath at the park that was first established in 1992 by then-lieutenant governor Blas. The park was refurbished last year.

According the family: "The small ceremony we held today was our way of honoring our father who never looked for praise and was never one to boast of his accomplishments. He just quietly did his work serving the people of Guam every single day. Dad was our tower of strength and the firm foundation of our family. We will miss him dearly. We want to thank the media for being so kind to us and respecting our privacy during this difficult time. We also want to thank the people of Guam for their thoughtfulness, generosity and prayers. The outpouring of support was of great comfort to all of us during our time of grief. *Dångkulo na si Yu'us ma'åse' yan Si Yu'us en fan binendise."* ***(PR)***

Respicio to Bordallo: Feds must take lead to deport all foreign criminals

Senator Rory J. Respicio introduced Resolution No. 433-33 (COR) which calls on Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo to exercise all means necessary in order that the Department of Homeland Security and its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency implement the deportation of "all foreign habitual criminals" from Guam.

This would include all foreign criminals convicted on Guam of crimes "in violation of the Compacts of Free Association and other treaties as well as laws of Guam and the laws of the United States."

Citing the burden on the local community in form of crime and strain on law enforcement resources, Respicio stated that its time the federal authorities step up and carry out deportations of habitual foreign criminals that were admitted under treaties entered into by the federal government.

Resolution No. 433-33 (COR) states that DHS has "consistently neglected to adequately enforce" provisions of these laws and treaties with foreign governments, as well as local Guam laws. Respicio also mentioned that the "'Three Strikes' Provision for Habitual Offenders of Serious Crimes" law includes a provision he authored that requires, "upon conviction of a deportable crime, the Attorney General of Guam shall immediately notify the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security of Guam's desire to have the COFA citizen deported, requiring that the AG work closely with the U.S. ICE Division of DHS to ensure all documents related to the conviction and required for deportation are immediately provided to the proper authorities."

Respicio is also on record as being in favor of Governor Calvo's recent executive action to deport foreign criminals, and has authored Resolution No. 418-33 (COR), which is relative to registering the support of I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan for Executive Order 2016-5 issued by Governor Eddie Baza Calvo, and conveying that the Rule of Law must remain at the core of the Calvo Administration's efforts to deport foreign criminals from Guam.

In a related letter to Bordallo, Respicio said, "I fully support Governor Calvo's initiative in deporting these criminals as a means of jump starting this process."

For more information, please contact Senator Respicio's office at 472-7679. ***(PR)***

KILILI

From Page 1

election on the bench. *Saipan Tribune* did not include the judge among the 36 positions up for grabs.

Yesterday, Thomas Lee A. Manglona (Democrat) filed before the Commonwealth Election Commission's office on Saipan his candidacy for Rota senator.

Thomas Manglona's brother, incumbent Rota senator Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), is also seeking re-election. It's the first time in CNMI history that two brothers are battling for the same position.

Aaron Jay Murdock (Democrat) also filed his candidacy yesterday for the House of Representatives Precinct 4 seat.

CEC acting executive director Julita A. Villagomez disclosed that as of yesterday on Rota, George Hocog (Republican) filed his candidacy for senator, four for Municipal Council seats, and one for Board of Education.

For Tinian, as of yesterday two independents filed their candidacies—Henry San Nicolas for senator and Diana Hocog Borja for a House seat.

Villagomez said six others on Tinian filed their candidacies for municipal council positions.

Hours before the 4:30pm deadline yesterday, seven filed their candidacies on Saipan.

Joseph Kani Ruak (Independent) is seeking the House's Precinct 4 seat, Jose Itibus (Republican) is running for the House's Precinct 3, and Vicente Aldan Ichihara (Independent) is vying for the House's Precinct 2 seat.

Maria Lourdes Ada and James M. Rayphand are running for two Board of Education Saipan positions. Two others—Andrew Lujan Orsini and Janice Tenorio—earlier filed their candidacies for Saipan BOE positions.

Luis John DLG Castro and Diego Kaipat are eyeing the three Saipan Municipal Council positions.

Villagomez said that on Tuesday, three more independents filed their candidacies for House Saipan seats—former lawmakers Heinz Hofschneider, Stanley Torres, and Ana Teregeyo.

Hofschneider and Torres are running for Precinct 3, while Teregeyo is running for Precinct 1.

The five CEC members are going to hold a meeting on Aug. 17 at 1:30pm to certify the candidates.

902

From Page 1

Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), mayors Joey Patrick San Nicolas (Tinian) and Efraim Atalig (Rota), and Tan Holdings vice president Alex Sablan.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco said details and other updates are not yet available as of press time, but the Governor's Office will release any information the team would send. He added the talks remain part of the continued partnership between the CNMI government and President Obama's appointee, Kia'aina.

The 902 talks or Section 902 is an agreement between the governments of the CNMI and the United States under the Covenant where both parties reassess their relationship every 10 years. The CNMI transitional program that expires in 2019 and the planned military build up will be at the center of the discussions.

Blanco said this is just a follow up of the previous meeting last June held in Washington, D.C. "We anticipate progress on the aforementioned issues once the discussions begin. We will keep you posted soonest they become available."

"The discussion has something to do with the plans of the Department of Defense on our islands and other concerns of the CNMI. Especially the CW issue that is currently affecting our transitional workers here in the CNMI and their families," said Blanco, who added that Torres and the CNMI panel just want to follow up on those issues.

Blanco said currently the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hasn't released any updates on the issue. "What's going to happen now? Does the USCIS come out with a regulation that's contravention with the law? Is U.S. Congress going to act? But I don't think so since it is election season."

"This is one of the important issues that surround the CNMI. Now, what are we going to do with children who are still underage and whose parents are CWs and need to leave the CNMI. These are some of the issues that are going to be discussed and where the talks will center on," added Blanco.

DPW

From Page 1

covered and included for FY 2017," said Camacho.

He added that they need to get professional engineers, who are seasoned and are veterans in their respective fields. That's why they must increase the salaries of at least three positions to make it competitive.

"The building code is mandated to ensure all commercial and residential buildings under Public Law 6-45. We need to hire experienced, professionals, and seasoned not just engineers," Camacho told the committee members.

Mechanical and electrical engineers are some of the positions needed, aside from those in the technical services division. Camacho said they want to increase the salaries from $40,000 to $70,000 annually.

Camacho added with a lot of construction activity going on, they need to fill some of these important positions that would help make sure everything that is built is in accordance with all the safety codes.

"We have no mechanical engineer for a long time now. The last one was Brian Smith and he is no longer on the island. We require a mechanical engineer to make sure all of these super structures that are being built are safe," said Camacho.

"There's a lot of development going on and we want to make sure we have a proper team that would ensure whatever that is built is constructed properly."

He said roads and other facilities that are being constructed, including the Puerto Rico Dump project, need maintenance after completion. "Our current staff is not enough and these are challenging times for us. It will be hard to do maintenance for us."

Camacho said they would also need 10 full-time equivalents, or FTAs, to be able to perform their duties under the mandate and split the crews to different areas.

"We want to make changes to our financial situation and it was not included on the governor's proposal. We know it has something to do with legislation to pass and approve the budget hat's why we're asking if there's any chance for changes to help our financial situation."

MICHAEL

From Page 3

and its responsibilities in order to arrive at a proper determination.

Police said the girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu from an Internet café and was on her way home on Oct. 9, 2010, at about 1am when Jackson forced her into his car, brought her to an open field at the Saipan Airport, and raped her inside his car. He then forced the girl to smoke methamphetamine or "ice."

The girl later managed to run away, police said.

Trump's 'anti-Pinoy' tirade further denounced

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republican Party presidential candidate Donald Trump's statement lumping the Philippines together with countries he called "terrorist nations" during a recent rally has received further condemnation from the local Filipino community.

The Philippines, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Yemen, were the "terrorist nations" Trump alluded to during a recent rally in Portland, Maine.

Filipinos living in the CNMI are certainly not happy with the GOP presidential candidate's recent comments.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) expressed disdain in reaction to Trump's statement. "[Trump's statement is an] insult to the hard-working people of the Philippines," said Propst. "How many Filipinos are terrorists in the U.S.? It's a total insult to all of the good that Filipinos have done all around the world. Historically speaking too, the Filipinos fought with the allies with the U.S., and we can never forget that."

Propst, whose mother hails from the Philippines, also stressed how important the Philippines is to the U.S. "The Philippines is an important ally in the Pacific. We need to remember that and respect them."

When asked about his opinions on Trump, Propst replied with, "He (Trump) is a sociopath, he is a misogynist, he degrades everybody. He is a demagogue. He believes he alone can fix all of our problems as if he is a savior. That is not leadership."

If Trump were to win as president, Propst said, "We should brace for the best and pray for the worst."

He even went as far as saying that Trump is a liar and a threat to the world. "I will never endorse Trump. He's a threat, not just to America's security, but to the security of the entire world. He is most likely the person to get [us] into a world war," explains Propst. "Furthermore, he is a compulsive liar. He won't even release his tax returns, even though he promised to release the tax returns and even gave Mitt Romney a hard time for not letting him see his tax returns."

Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and American Samoa and of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa, also disagreed with Trump's statement.

"The Filipinos in the United States of America and its territories have excelled on their profession, skills, and expertise and have brought tremendous contributions to the building of this nation economically, politically, academically, and in other areas," she said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"We, the Filipinos, are an integral part of the society on why America is a great nation. Hence, we should be treated with dignity, respect, inclusivity, and equality like other brothers and sisters of other nations."

Lamkin predicts the CNMI would greatly suffer if Filipinos would be banned from entering the U.S. "The Philippines might weaken its diplomatic ties with the U.S. who is a strong ally of the Philippines for more than 50 years. Also, the U.S. is the strongest ally when it comes to our West Philippine Sea issues. The Filipinos might be banned as tourists and immigrants in the U.S. The CNMI will lose all the Filipino contract workers who are badly needed by its booming tourism industry and other economic activities."

Lamkin also thinks other countries will be brought into the discussion if Filipinos will be barred entrance. "Even the Chinese tourists who have visa waiver to enter the CNMI might be abolished. And CNMI will definitely suffer economically. "

When asked about the important qualities a U.S. President must have, Lamkin replied that a good president must be able to communicate. "He or she should be a good communicator in a sense that all words and statements that he or she delivers are clearly defined and with sensitivity," said Lamkin.

"A president should be very broad minded on immigration and foreign affairs policy, not compulsive, not reckless, and divisive in his statements. He or she should have the values of inclusivity, love, and equality. He or she should have love of his country, respect, integrity, honesty, and cohesiveness so he will not divide the people, transparency and accountability, compassion," she said. "He or she should have a vision of the future not only of the present."

Also very important to Lamkin is for the U.S. President to know that he is not above the people, but actually a servant of the people.

"Last but not the least, he or she should think that she or he is a public servant and should think not think of his or her political ambition. He or she is letter by the people, by the people and for the people and that's the meaning of democracy."

AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Merrill Auditorium, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016, in Portland, Maine.

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‘End of Summer Music Fest’ on Aug. 27

By JOAN L. TAITANO
joan_taitano@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. will celebrate the end of summer by holding the Budweiser “End of Summer Music Fest” on Aug. 27, 2016 at Hard Rock Café.

MARPAC Sales manager James Lee said his company started organizing the event in 2014 but its second staging in 2015 was cancelled due to Typhoon Soudelor.

“When MARPAC held the ‘Marianas Music Fest’ in 2014, we were thinking of making it an annual music event. However, since Typhoon Soudelor happened, MARPAC felt it was not appropriate to hold such event.”

This year, since recovery efforts have been successful, MARPAC decided to hold anew the “End of Summer Music Fest” featuring the music of three popular bands from Guam—The John Dank Show, The Dolls, and Chris Boomer & Joe Hernandez. The event will also showcase two local bands Marvin Guerrero & Jay Babauta and Tom Basa Jr. & The Marianas Project featuring Vina Duenas.

Lee said, “Budweiser, the major sponsor of the event, is currently having the ‘Made in America-Win Big with Budweiser’ promotion that runs from now until Oct. 7, 2016. We will be having a major raffle with these prizes: a 2016 Harley Davidson motorcycle worth $25,000; full-expense paid trip for two to the Made in Guam Music Festival; Bud Light chiller; ultimate BBQ package, and many more. First drawing will be held on Aug. 13, 2016 at Jonny’s bar.”

Lee

Ticket purchased in advance is $25 and $30 if purchased at the door. Tickets are being sold at IT&E, Tribe Marianas, and MARPAC, Inc. Tickets are limited to the maximum capacity of 400 people.

Each purchased ticket serves as an entrance to the concert; one raffle ticket to win a Bud Light Chill Chamber plus five cases of beer; one raffle ticket entry to “Made in America-Win Big with Budweiser” promotion; $50 off on the next VIP promo package at Best Sunshine Live, and a one-time $10 match play. The raffle for this event will be held at Safehouse and Jonny’s Bar at 11:30pm.

The Budweiser “End of Summer Music Fest” is brought to you by the following sponsors: MARPAC, IT&E, Best Sunshine Live, Hertz, Sorensen Media Group/Power 99, Marianas Variety News & Views, Tribe Marianas, and Hafaloha Clothing.

Labor reaffirms denial of certificate of compliance to company

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody reaffirmed the CNMI Department of Labor’s decision to deny giving a construction company a certificate of compliance or good standing.

Cody affirmed the denial of certificate of good standing based on evidence showing that Big Bell, Inc., was well aware of Labor’s website and had a history of not posting job vacancy announcements.

In fact, Cody said Big Bell failed to post more than 40 JVAs on Labor’s website, therefore justifying the decision to deny the request for the issuance of a certificate of good standing.

Big Bell operates a construction business that currently employs 58 employees—six U.S. citizens/permanent residents and 49 CW-1 status employees.

The construction company was given 15 days from the date of issuance of the order to appeal Cody’s ruling.

This case is based on Big Bell’s timely appeal of a Notice of Denial issued by Job Placement on July 22, 2016 in which Job Placement denied Big Bell’s request for a certification of compliance or certificate of good standing.

The construction company’s request was denied originally for the following reasons—employer failed to post a job vacancy announcement on Labor’s website for 45 jobs offered in 2015 and 2016, which is in violation of the employment rules and regulations, codified in the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code.

Moreover, Big Bell failed to submit a work force plan for 2015 to Labor, which is in violation of the employment rules and regulations, codified in the NMIAC.

Finally, Big Bell failed to file with Labor, quarterly total workforce listings for four quarters in 2015, as well as the first and second quarters of 2016. ***(Joan L. Taitano)***

Man posts bail on domestic violence complaint

By JOAN L. TAITANO
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REPORTER

Richard S. Reyes, 40, posted a $3,000 bail in Superior Court for a probable cause in a domestic violence dispute complaint last Aug. 8.

On Aug. 5, 2016, police officers Joseph Magofna and Daniel Kintol were conducting a routine patrol when they were called to respond to a domestic violence dispute.

Magofna and Kintol arrived at the Commonwealth Health Center ER and met with attending physician attendant Kate Feeman. She told Kintol that a woman told the ER that one of her children was not feeling well.

In addition, prior to checking in one of woman’s children, Freeman learned that the family had been through a domestic disturbance at home.

Reyes was drinking beer and causing a ruckus. He shouted profanities and was volatile toward one of his children. As a result, Reyes was arrested for domestic violence, disturbing the peace, and assault and battery and he was detained at the Department of Corrections.

Three days later, Reyes posted the $3,000 bail amount originally set by Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, with the following conditions: appear in court when he needs to; must obey all Commonwealth laws; surrender travel documents; and shall have no direct or indirect contact with the complainant.

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Tinian independents file candidacies for Nov. polls

Five Tinian independents filed their petitions for candidacy for the upcoming November elections at the Commonwealth Election Commission Tuesday at the Tinian Court House.

The group of independent candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy was led by former two-term senator Henry Hofschneider San Nicolas. San Nicolas, the owner of SN-5 Shipping, is running for the Senate.

Bilingual specialist Diana Hocog Borja is running for a seat in the House of Representatives, while retired police officer and cattleman Sylvestre Hofschneider Palacios Jr. is throwing his hat in the political arena by running for Tinian Municipal Council.

Deborah Aldan Fleming will also be running for the local municipal council. She is the owner of the Fleming Hotel.

Another prominent businessman running for public office is Phillip Mendiola Long. The CEO of Bridge Investment Group is gunning for a seat in the Tinian Municipal Council.

Hofschneider said, "I have decided to run in this election because Tinian is moving backward, not forward. I feel that my experience in the Legislature and in the Tinian business community will help Tinian begin to make some real progress, again. We independents are the right choice for this election."

Borja, who is currently a member of the Tinian Municipal Council, said, "I have decided to run for the House of Representatives because Tinian needs effective leadership in the House, where good legislation begins. Right now, our people are hurting. Our dream of economic prosperity through casino gaming has been dashed. With support from our independent candidates for the next municipal council, I am confident that we can get Tinian moving forward again. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of Tinian independent candidates, led by former two-term senator Henry Hofschneider San Nicolas, poses for a group photo with their families and supporters after filing their certificates of candidacy for the upcoming November elections in November Tuesday at the Tinian Court House.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Tinian mayor Ray Dela Cruz shows his support by attending the filing of petitions of candidacy by Tinian independent candidates.

3 people rescued at sea near Pohnpei

SANTA RITA, Guam— Three people were rescued at sea due to engine failure in the waters off of Pohnpei.

At 3:33pm on Aug. 9 the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center (JRSC) received a Search and Rescue Satellite (SARSAT) alert for a 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) approximately 10NM south of Pohnpei. The JRSC quickly issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast and SAFETY NET message to all mariners requesting assistance within the vicinity. The JRSC contacted the Federated States of Micronesia National Police to request the dispatch of a search vessel to which they launched the FSS UNITY and headed towards the given coordinates.

During the interim time while the *FSS Unity* made way to the distressed vessel, the JRSC was able to pull the beacon information that was registered and contact the owner's family. The family was able to confirm that three people had departed earlier that day and were expected to be in the area where the beacon was activated. The JRSC also confirmed through multiple beacon alerts that the vessel seemed to be making way through the water even with engine problems. They reported all the locations to the *FSS Unity* who was able to locate the vessel in 5-foot seas and 10 knot winds off the coast of Pohnpei and safely escort the vessel and all passengers back home.

Senior Chief Zack Washko, the JRSC Command Duty Officer for the case reports that having a registered PLB on board greatly increased the men's chances of survival and being located during this situation. The beacon was properly registered with the owner's contact and family information and allowed the Coast Guard to receive hourly updates on the vessel's location. With this information it allowed for a flawless joint search effort with the Federated States of Micronesia. These devices are essential to the survivability of mariners at sea. It is recommended that all mariners inform someone of their travel plans and carry personal floatation devices for all persons aboard the vessel; an alert beacon, whether it be an Emergency Position Indicating Beacon or PLB, flares, and reliable communications. ***(PR)***

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Ex-Guam Customs officer sentenced to 14 years in jail

Ayvin Wyll Ueda Remoket has been sentenced to serve 14 years incarceration, to run concurrent to five years incarceration, followed by three years of supervised release by District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Tydingco-Gatewood

Remoket pled guilty on May 15, 2014 to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" and to giving notice of a search warrant.

The defendant was a former Guam Customs and Quarantine officer assigned to the Contraband Enforcement Team at the time of the offenses.

He conspired with co-defendants Amos Ueda and Frederick Obak to receive and distribute a package containing 984.3 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride at a business establishment in Guam, namely Staywell Insurance in Hagatna, Guam. The contents of the package were to be broken down for later distribution on Guam.

The methamphetamine hydrochloride was concealed within a U.S. Priority Mail package and sent from Washington State to Guam where it was intercepted by the U.S. Postal Inspector. The Drug Enforcement Administration Forensic Laboratory determined that the methamphetamine had a high purity level of 82.2 percent. The street value of 984.3 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride exceeds $492,150.00.

The investigation was conducted by the Guam U.S. Postal Inspector and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agents as well as Task Force Officers who determined that Remoket, using his position of authority, attempted to protect the conspiracy by giving notice to his co-defendants of the interception of the package.

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Alicia A.G. Limtiaco stated, "The defendant, at the time of the crimes, was a Guam Customs and Quarantine Officer assigned to the Contraband Enforcement Team. He abused and violated the public's trust by using and exploiting his official position to commit the crimes and gain information to impede the investigation in this case. It is not uncommon for methamphetamine hydrochloride possession and distribution to be associated with violent and other criminal activity. The drug has destructive and devastating effects on individuals, families and our community. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to the aggressive prosecution of those offenders who traffic drugs and abuse their positions of authority to commit criminal activity."

This conviction resulted from the concerted efforts of law enforcement partners in an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation. OCDETF is a focused multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task force investigating and prosecuting the most significant drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States by leveraging the combined expertise of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The investigating agencies include the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)-Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and the Guam Police Department (GPD). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rosetta San Nicolas. ***(PR)***

'Fishing together for a Pacific free of corruption, poverty'

Delegates from 19 Supreme Audit Institution member countries were welcomed by Gov. Marcelino Peterson to the State of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia for the 19th PASAI Congress held last Aug. 2-5.

Signs at the international airport and on the streets signaled the importance of this occasion, which saw development partners NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and INTOSAI Donor Secretariat (IDI, Brazil office) attend, as well as stakeholders from the World Bank and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, and observers from the US Department of Interior (DOI) and the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Congress was opened by keynote speaker, President Peter M. Christian, followed by Mary Kendall, deputy inspector general, U.S. Department of Interior who gave special remarks. Both speakers emphasized the values of integrity, strength of character, trust and relationships as being key to the role of Auditors.

Lyn Provost, PASAI secretary general and auditor general of New Zealand gave the keynote address, presenting her report on "Reflections from our audits: Governance and Accountability." Eight elements of good governance was the focus of her address and sharing the journey of PASAI. Provost completes her seven-year term this year and SAI heads acknowledged with great appreciation the remarkable work and esteemed leadership she has provided as secretary general of PASAI for the past six years.

Fighting corruption and poverty was the theme of the Congress. SAI heads discussed the challenges and successes of their roles in combating these prevalent issues in the Pacific. Key solutions considered were advocating for legislative changes, working more closely with other government agencies, increasing public awareness of the issues and engaging them in the fight against corruption and poverty. The international attendance beyond the Pacific at this year's Congress signalled the growing value PASAI is having on the global auditing stage.

SAI Samoa was nominated as the new PASAI member on the INTOSAI governing board. Regionally, the chairmanship of PASAI was handed over by John Path, auditor general of Vanuatu to Ihlen Joseph, auditor general of Pohnpei FSM.

Participants enjoyed the generous hospitality of the SAI Pohnpei and their staff. A cultural reception and day excursions ensured delegates experienced the beauty and uniqueness of Pohnpei.

SAI heads conveyed their vote of thanks to the development partners, stakeholders, observers and hosting SAI for their invaluable contributions to the 19th PASAI Congress. ***(PR)***

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Francisco M. Sablan Middle School orientation on Aug. 16

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, formerly San Antonio Middle School, will hold its orientation for parents and students on Aug. 16, from 5pm to 6pm for all grade levels.

Classes for School Year 2016-2017 will begin on Monday, Aug. 15. ***(PR)***

Children of NMSA Hall of Famer receive full scholarship

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The children of Northern Marianas Sports Association Hall of Famer Mike Villagomez received full scholarships from the Barrett Summer School Program at the Arizona State University.

Unlike Villagomez, who has represented the CNMI in multiple international swimming competitions, and received an athletic scholarship from the University of Indianapolis, sons Michail and Michael Thomas Villagomez received and completed the full scholarship on academic grounds.

The Barrett Summer School Program is a program of ASU that allows 7th to 9th graders in the campus to take on various activities and to attend college level classes.

Michail Villagomez entered the BSS Program on ASU's West Campus, while Michael Thomas Villagomez took part in ASU's Tempe campus designed for 7th and 9th grade, respectively. The 7th grade BSS Program that Michail attended lasted for two weeks, while the 9th grade BSS Program that Michael Thomas attended lasted for a week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Michail Villagomez, Arizona State University Educational Outreach coordinator Randell Green, and Michael Thomas Villagomez.

"The BSS program allowed them to interact with other scholars, engage in intellectual discussions, and sharpened their critical thinking skills. The boys became more independent and are excited about attending college," said Mike Villagomez.

Arizona State University Educational Outreach coordinator Randell Green, in the acceptance letter sent to the Villagomezes, congratulated Michail and Michael for being accepted to the BSS Program.

"Congratulations on being selected for the 2016 Barrett Summer Scholars (BSS) program at Arizona State University! The applicant pool was highly competitive and you should be proud of your achievement in being selected for BSS."

Green added, "On behalf of all of our program staff, I wanted to extend endless gratitude to you and your families for choosing to be part of our prohgram. The amount of passion and dedication you each show to your education and your future is ttruly inspiring. I appreciate all of your hard work in your courses, your openness to new experiences and new people, and the unique qualities you possess which make BSS such an amazing family!" the acceptance letter continued.

The BSS Program 9th Grade session ran from June 5 through June 17, while the 7th Grade session ran from June 26 through July 1.

Michail and Michael Thomas Villagomez are former students at Kagman High School. They also swam for the Saipan Swimming Club like their father who also used to coach the team.

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EDITORIAL

Trump has a posture, not a plan, on economics

Donald Trump said he'd use his speech to the Detroit Economic Club on Monday to unveil a new plan for revitalizing the American economy. Sadly, what he offered wasn't new, and it wasn't a coherent plan. The specifics Trump did put on the table would cripple rather than revitalize the U.S. economy.

His ideas fall under four main headings: taxes, regulation, energy and trade. In each case, current U.S. policy could certainly stand some improvement. When Trump says taxes should be simplified, he's right; when he says the burden of regulation is greater than it should be, he's right. Trump's correct, too, in saying that this slow recovery has left many people hurting. But his ill-considered promises fail to address the real issues.

He proposes simplifying the tax system by reducing the number of income-tax bands to three (from seven), as well as cutting personal rates, lowering the business tax rate to 15 percent, and repealing the estate tax. His proposed personal tax rates of 12 percent, 25 percent and 33 percent are higher than he previously suggested, but even with some narrowing of tax deductions and the closing of the carried-interest loophole (both good ideas, by the way), the loss of revenue would be substantial.

Lower taxes are great: They encourage effort and investment. But permanent tax reductions require permanent spending reductions, and on that subject Trump has almost nothing to say. A tax proposal that cuts revenue deeply without considering the implications for spending solves nothing.

When it comes to regulation, Trump is similarly unconcerned with results. Minimizing the burden of regulation on business requires careful justification and good design. Trump says he's going to cut regulations "massively," starting with a moratorium on new ones. Such sweeping declarations are worthless. Smart regulatory reform has to move case by case, and demands close attention to detail — not the candidate's style.

But Trump's pronouncements on taxes and regulation are temperate compared with his position on energy. He proposes to roll back the Obama administration's "anti-energy" policies, without regard to how this might increase emissions of carbon and other pollutants. Again, Trump's plan acknowledges no trade-offs, no complications.

To cap it all, there's trade. Here, Trump's proposals are specific — but they would be patently destructive of U.S. productive potential and living standards. He threatens to scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement if it cannot be renegotiated to his liking; he promises to ditch the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and he says he'll apply punitive tariffs to countries such as China, which he regards as cheats. These measures would disrupt the global supply chains that U.S. businesses rely on, raise prices for American consumers, and stifle competition and innovation. That's assuming the U.S. can embark on a one-sided trade war without provoking retaliation against its own exports.

Policies have consequences, and presidential candidates ought to show they understand this. So far, Trump hasn't — and until he does, his ideas don't deserve to be called a plan.

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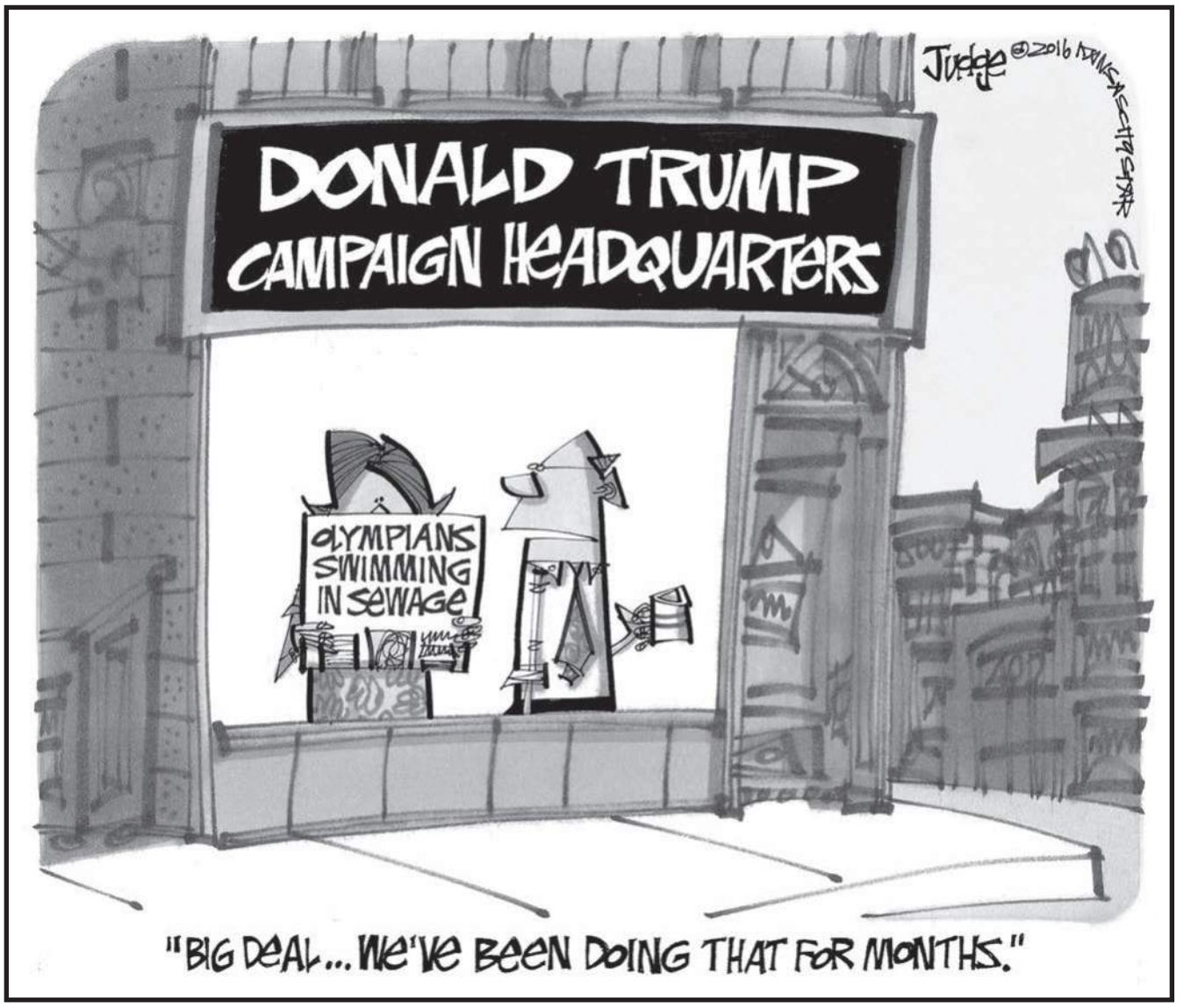

Iran deal has brought nothing substantial

By TOM RIDGE
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Tom Ridge was the nation's first secretary of homeland security and served two terms as governor of Pennsylvania. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may email him at tridge@ridgeglobal.com*

Last week, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei accused the United States of failing to honor pledges in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Citing "the futility of negotiations with the Americans," he distanced himself from the nuclear deal he once supported.

Coming just weeks after the one-year anniversary of the agreement, his charge is just another in an escalating war of words from Tehran that reminds the world that the "era of good feelings" promised by U.S. negotiators never came to pass. Nor have Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Tehran's change in tune should come as no surprise. Intelligence reports have long warned that the regime continued its attempts to obtain illicit nuclear material right up to the brink of implementation of the deal. And while the accord did institute constraints on Iran's uranium enrichment program and its capacity for producing weapons-grade plutonium, the vast majority of Iran's nuclear infrastructure remains in place.

Iran's problematic behavior was recently underscored by Robert Joseph, former U.S. special envoy for nuclear nonproliferation, during a recent panel discussion in Paris. He cautioned that the JCPOA had only compelled Iran to dismantle some of its enrichment centrifuges while leaving them safely inside the country, ready to be re-engaged at the first opportunity.

The current state of the deal stands in stark contrast to the world community's prior successes with other nuclear threshold states. Libyans, for instance, demonstrated a genuine and tangible commitment to abandoning the pursuit of nuclear weapons insofar as they fully opened up their country to impartial international inspections. Iran has come nowhere close to this.

The lack of transparent monitoring has been a major point of unease among critics and initial supporters of the nuclear agreement alike. The deal only establishes international surveillance of declared nuclear enrichment sites, failing to address the likelihood that illicit nuclear development is taking place in secured locations, undetected by foreign intelligence agencies.

This would not be the first time that Iran successfully slipped its nuclear efforts under the international radar.

In 2002, it was not Western investigation but the Iranian resistance group Mujahedin-e Khalq that revealed the essential details of the Iranian nuclear program. If not for this intelligence breakthrough, the regime would likely already be armed with nuclear weapons.

Nuclear limitations aside, it's hard to imagine that the hoped-for shift in Tehran's foreign policy will materialize. The strategic contours are set by the supreme leader himself, whose support for Syrian dictator Bashar Assad is unwavering. Various credible reports indicate that thousands of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps members are now operating in Syria.

Western policymakers should have recognized that the theocracy is inherently incapable of reform. If history is any guide, Tehran will exploit every weakness in the nuclear agreement as part of its relentless effort to deceive its enemies. And, it will use the current environment of Western complacency to intensify regional adventurism and support for extremist thought.

In a similar stroke of naiveté, proponents of the deal mistakenly assumed that Tehran would clean up its domestic behavior. But political opponents and activists continue to be arrested, tortured, and executed in increasing numbers. During the administration of supposedly "moderate" Hassan Rouhani, the regime has executed at least 2,600 prisoners, including many dissidents — an unprecedented figure by any standard.

Overall, the deal has led to no progress. In return for modest, reversible concessions on the nuclear issue alone, the blood-drenched ayatollahs received sanctions relief from the United States and Europe to the tune of tens of billions of dollars, which has served, above all else, to further finance the Iranian regime's illicit, inhumane, and destabilizing activities. If the regime decides to abandon the deal, it will emerge stronger than ever before, laughing in the face of the West's foolish compliance.

Let Khamenei's bellicose rhetoric stand as a warning and a call to action. Every interested American should urge the next president to chart a different, sensible course for American policy toward the fundamentalist regime in Iran. This course should, at last, reflect American values by identifying itself with the Iranian people and their cry for democracy and freedom.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The mess at CUC

In government business the idea of better, faster, and cheaper is translated into concepts of efficiency, organization, and budget. About a week ago, Mr. Ralph Torres, the CEO of government, met with the members of the CUC board to discuss matters about CUC's affairs and among other things. We knew the meeting took place, but, we heard very little of what he discussed and outcome of this meeting. Like a manager of an enterprise visiting the floor of the assembly line, his presence at CUC tells the story that something important must have triggered the visit. If a summary of discussion was ever published as part of the visit, the general public would have ascertained that the CEO is hooked to making CUC a winner and things are satisfactorily okay. We can all talk and point out what efficiency, organization, and budget in government means, and spending time to detail what they are here would have sent the message to those that play and in charged. As simplified as it is presented here, we can be rest assured that the CEO at the helm of government would grasp what is being said to confront the basic issues at CUC. Let's assume that Torres' mission is efficiency, organization, and budget as they apply to the CNMI government and its subdivision.

As ratepayer of CUC's services and constituency dearly and deeply affected by the CUC sole and sanctioned government corporation, if the CEO failed to address the basic issues of CUC's going concern, in which the meeting is just the usual pomp and circumstance even if he holds meeting for the next twenty year, that would not have effectual outcomes than a mere "hafa Adai todo moulek." If every time the CEO lays on the discussion table the concepts of efficiency, organization, and budget, the stakeholders such as the ratepayers would have sounding assurance that something good is being produced that makes this public corporation enterprise the winner that satisfies its going concern. CUC should be a benefit to the people that use its services and the product it provides as a public utility organization.

The integrated relationship of what is efficiency, organization, and budget are not mutually exclusive, they must work in whole and within its limits. Efficiency and budget means the least possible cost, the human resources, and capital resources are all integrated by frugal and effective settings, knowing employment of human resources is key to organization and efficiency. Oversimplified in this presentation, but one could see the integrative aspect of the working of producing winners of outcomes that benefit the general public who depend on the services and product produced by CUC. If the CEO spent his time in discussion outside the realm of efficiency, organization, and budget, the effort to revisit such desire to open doors at CUC is the purpose of taking the bull by the horn. This is not a trial and error, but a need to focus on the basic question so that the ratepayers benefit, and CUC shapes up to be a winner.

The electricity, potable water, and wastewater treatment services and products are for the public good. Human resources is a major factor for the production of these services and products possible. Present and future costs are important. Only if we know what the present human resource capacity and what they do can we tell that CUC is fully and properly manned. In the organization of its human resources, its present numbers and position classifications should trigger that part of cost of service. This data should not just serve the good of and for the bureaucrats in CUC, but must include those ratepayers that follow and monitor the affairs of their public corporation. This part of responsibility rests with and belongs to the human resources department, and access to this department should be liberal enough for any ratepayer to ask and obtain information. Having had some expert knowledge of public utility organization, in general, we should expect that CUC would have specific positions in an organized structure that include these sectional business units within CUC: board of directors, executive director, and deputy executive director, information technology, employee (HR) services, customer service, finance, electric production, waste water treatment, drinking water, operations and maintenance, and engineering. These departmental designations could be in different functional names, but for out purpose a start for this purpose. From this platform, the HR department should competently present in logical and expert manner a "work force" projection of at least the short period up to the next five years and inclusive of projections of a period up to eight years. If done professionally, the projections of full-time and temporary FTE, including possible interns in such programs as the apprenticeship program and training partnership with educational institutions will give clear and expected size of the workforce and when integrated in the capital and operating budget, all these factors would be the subject of the established survival rate for CUC and affordability of rate charge to its ratepayers.

For efficiency and budget, the Finance Department that is headed by a chief financial pfficer (CFO) would be tasked to—like the HR department for the manpower cost—a detail projection of the operating and capital budget for the next five years and inclusive of the period extending up to eight year. Revenues and expenses projections is key to all subsequent budgets needed to be put in logical and professional manner following specific accounting and financial accounting formats and conventions such as FASB, GASB, and Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and Principles. If CUC makes known what is expected in terms of operating revenues, operating expenses, non-operating revenues, and non-operating expenses each projected year, the residual net income or net lost would be known far in advance. But, only when careful assessment and expert review by a competent professional could this be possible. The ratepayers, however, would secure interest in what CUC has observed and plan to execute during the lifespan of the financial projections and overview.

From the financial projections and overview, the operating budget comes into focus in which all the labor, supplies, intra-governmental charges of cost centers are consolidated and allocated to the each revenue departments, other services for cost attributed,other expenses all aggregated to reflect the total expenses for each of the subject years. Cash flow projections should be a part of these projections in addition to capital improvement projects planned for the projection period. The consolidated financial projections would include the electric, wastewater treatment, and drinking water business units.

If all the workforce and financial projections are put together in a format that makes sense to the ratepayers, the tie-in of efficiency, organization and budget should be a common language among stakeholders of CUC.

Dismissing the cuing to trial and error observation should be the first thing to do. Any bureaucrat in charged or any rate payer interested should bring the point of efficiency, organization, and budget when screening CUC for the rate it charges to its ratepayers. If the CEO of this government continues to stick to the same decorum of rhetoric CUC and its bureaucrats, and overseeing board would never deal directly of what is important.

With less precision on what is reality, CUC would never be a winning public enterprise of the CNMI government. This should apply to all other autonomous departments of the CNMI government. When this problem does not creep into the mentality of the CEO, the rippling and chilling effects are all become a domino effect to all the skeletal structure of the government, including the Legislature that decides what public policy is good or not good. It is the hope, that our government does not recycle losers but instead sustain and make winners. The question is whether efficiency, organization, and budget is anywhere present in their radar screen. From here, telling it should at least embarrass the "ID 10T" that doesn't. This is our government and we hope that one would heed to suggestion.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

Migration and impact of FAS citizens

As assistant secretary, I began an initiative that included participation of Freely Associated States presidents, Governor Calvo, Hawaii Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz (now U.S. senator), congresswoman Bordallo, congressman Kilili Sablan, and several federal agencies to discuss the migration and impact of FAS citizens to U.S. jurisdictions.

The initiative, named Pacific Island Leaders Addressing Compact Impact (PILACI), brought together such leaders to discuss any multitude of ways to mitigate the negative effects being associated with FAS migration. Many ideas were discussed and there were efforts underway to determine feasibility based on existing policy or administrative action.

After my departure, Ms. Bordallo should have followed up with her request with my successor in the same way she sought assurances of my commitment to fund political status education funding for Guam.

It has been four years since my departure from office and I'm unaware that she has raised this issue with my successor, or during the annual meeting of the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs, or has sought from my successor continuing meetings of Pacific Island Leaders."

Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta
Via email

500 Sails focused on both Carolinian, Chamorro maritime traditions

I am the executive director of 500 Sails, Inc., the non-profit organization that is the subject of Tuesday's *Saipan Tribune* story entitled "Non-profit wants to see 500 'Flying Proas' in the water."

Thank you for the coverage of our program that aims to make access to traditional canoe sailing affordable and accessible to the people of the CNMI. I would like to emphasize that our program supports both Carolinian and Chamorro traditional sailing proas. Participants will have the opportunity to build and sail either or both kinds of proas.

500 Sails is a maritime traditions restoration project. It has a target of 500 proas built and on the water by 2030. This number matches the number of proas that met the Spanish galleon San Pedro when it arrived at Guam in 1565 before the practice of building and sailing traditional proas was suppressed by the Spanish and lost in these islands. Project participants will be assisted by a skilled team of "Sakman Leaders" in the hands-on construction of their own proas in a fully provisioned and tooled *guma sakman* (canoe house). Participants will pay only the cost of the materials and many will be provided with financial assistance based on need.

The 500 Sails project includes instruction in the art of proa sailing, cultural maritime history, swimming and boating safety. Instruction is a mix of hands-on training and small group learning in a classroom setting. Learning of a Chamorro language sailing vocabulary of physical proa components as well as sailing maneuvers and activities is incorporated into the learning and practice of sailing.

500 Sails is an CNMI non-profit NMD corporation and federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

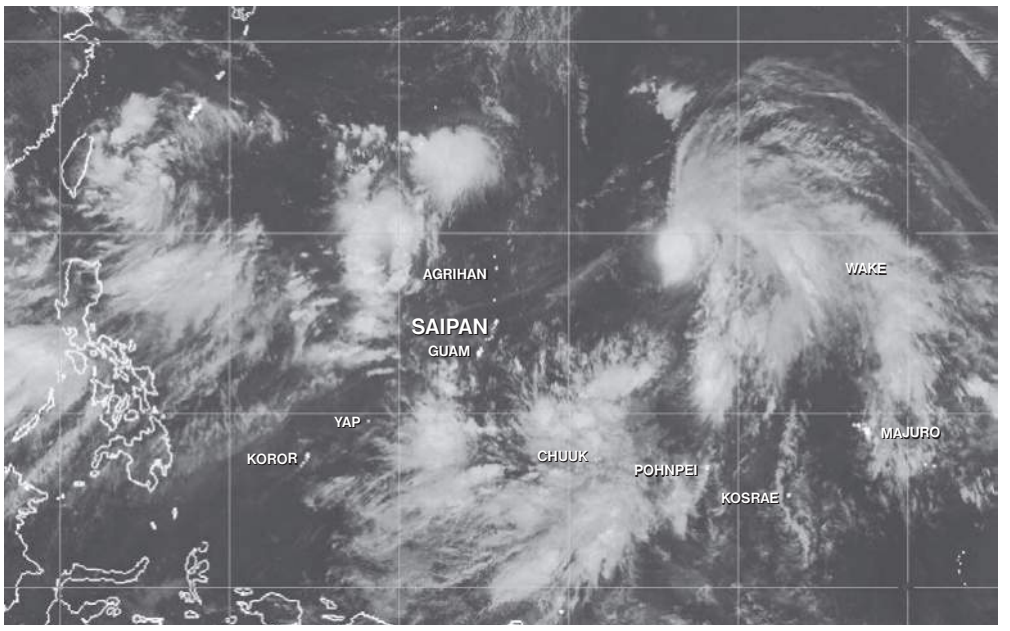
Peter J. Perez
Tanapag

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest to west winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest to west winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:07 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak monsoon trough remains the primary weather producer across the Marianas. The trough stretches southeastward across 130E at 21N to near Guam, then turns northeastward to end at Tropical Storm Conson. The trough is generating showers and a few thunderstorms mainly south of the Marianas. Models indicate a fairly dry pattern through Thursday as TS Conson moves to the northwest then north. This movement will help to drag the monsoon trough further north and it is expected to be north of 20N by the weekend. Models remain consistent with developing a few circulations along the trough, though the strength of these circulations remains fairly inconsistent from run to run. Regardless, indications are that there will be an increase in convection over the Marianas beginning Friday and continuing on into next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	83 / 91 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 86 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Sunny	81 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Sunny	84 / 87 °F
Majuro	Sunny	80 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	52 / 56 °F
Beijing	Decreasing cloudiness	79 / 93 °F
Hong Kong	Broken clouds	80 / 88 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	75 / 84 °F
London	Mostly cloudy	58 / 72 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	61 / 78 °F
Manila	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	43 / 56 °F
Miami	Cloudy	82 / 88 °F
New York	Thunderstorms	78 / 90 °F
Osaka	Mostly sunny	68 / 96 °F
Paris	Partly sunny	50 / 71 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	78 / 95 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	66 / 86 °F
Salem	Sunny	57 / 89 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	53 / 69 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	75 / 95 °F
Tokyo	Morning clouds	76 / 87 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	76 / 92 °F

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72 Feet
8:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.44 Feet
2:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.36 Feet
7:39 PM	LOW TIDE	0.98 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	12:39 AM	-
Friday	1:28 PM	12:28 AM
Saturday	2:17 PM	1:12 AM
Sunday	3:08 PM	1:59 AM
Monday	3:59 PM	2:50 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

NSA Summer Camp teaches environmental stewardship

In the ongoing Natibu Sports Association Summer Camp, Best Sunshine International's Corporate Social Responsibility personnel who serve as counselors to the program led and thought children-participants of the fragility of the environment and the importance of its continued protection.

Very recently, participants to the NSA Summer Camp, which is being done in partnership with BSI, were joined by their counselors at Pau Pau Beach for a field trip and cleanup. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The BSI-CSR staff and NSA campers take a break at the Pau Pau Beach playground.

The BSI-CSR staff and NSA campers strike a pose before their beach cleanup. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility staff and camp participants show their enthusiasm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The BSI-CSR team leads the way in educating young campers the importance of keeping the island's beaches clean.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Natibu Sports Association Summer Camp participants led by example in keeping the beach tidy.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan spent the whole of Thursday last week preparing and sprucing up the surroundings of Chacha Oceanview Middle School in preparation for the reopening of classes. Principal Vince Dela Cruz said this is part of a strong community partnership.

Air Force to conduct training at W-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) Aug. 12 from 7am to 2pm.

The Air Force will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla Aug. 12 from noon to 4pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements. ***(PR)***

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Business

Computer outage could tarnish Delta's on-time reputation

NEW YORK (AP)—We don't cancel flights.

That's been the message for the past two years from Delta Air Lines. Double decker buses roamed the streets of New York, wrapped in ads proclaiming "canceling cancellations." Delta executives boasted about the number of days without a single flight scrapped.

That all literally ground to a halt Monday when a system-wide computer outage led to the cancellation of more than 1,500 flights. Passengers were stranded around the globe with many spending the night in the airport.

Passengers check in at the Delta Air Lines counter at Narita international airport in Narita, east of Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016. AP

Until this outage, Delta had an impressive record, envied by other airlines. By June 9 of this year, Delta had already notched up 100 days where none of its own jets canceled flights—more than all of its major competitors' no-cancel days combined. And the cancellations during the other 61 days were mostly related to weather, not maintenance issues.

"Our people are hitting it out of the park, delivering on our promise to be a safe and reliable airline and making canceling cancellations a reality," Gil West, Delta's chief operating officer, said in a news release at the time trumpeting its record.

Sometimes, Delta took extreme measures to preserve that record such as letting delays roll on throughout the day instead of canceling. But the lack of cancellations and the airline's mantra of "keep climbing" won over business travelers willing to pay extra for flights that arrive on time.

A decade ago, Delta was getting 90 cents for every dollar charged by its competitors. Today, it gets 110 cents, Delta's new CEO, Ed Bastian proudly noted in a May interview with The Associated Press.

Yale, MIT, NYU sued over employee retirement plans

NEW YORK (AP)Employees of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University and Yale University are suing the schools over their handling of employee retirement plans, alleging too-high fees have undercut their savings.

Missouri law firm Schlichter, Bogard & Denton, which represents the employees, said the schools' actions as retirement plan sponsors caused workers to pay millions of dollars in "unreasonable and excessive fees" related to their 401(k) or 403(b) accounts. That includes what workers paid for in record keeping expenses, as well as the fees charged by the mutual funds offered in the plans.

The three lawsuits, one against each college, say the schools did not live up to their obligations under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. That law requires them to act in the best interest of participants and plan beneficiaries. The lawsuits say the colleges failed to pick the best-performing or least-expensive investment options and that employees had less in retirement savings as a result.

The lawsuit against MIT also challenges the school's relationship with Fidelity Investments, the plan's record keeper, suggesting it was influenced by the fact that Fidelity CEO Abigail Johnson is a member of the MIT board of trustees.

NYU spokesman John Beckman said the university is careful in choosing and administering retirement plans for employees and that its decisions are influenced by feedback from employees.

"We will litigate this case vigorously and expect to prevail," he said.

An MIT spokesman said the university does not comment on pending litigation. A Yale representative did not respond to a request for comment. A Fidelity spokesman also declined to comment.

Survey: Americans remain gloomy about economy, Chinese sunny

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans, Japanese and many Europeans are glum about their national economies. By contrast, Chinese, Indians and Australians feel positive about theirs.

Those are among the findings from a survey released Tuesday of 20,132 people in 16 countries by the Pew Research Center. Just 44 percent of Americans rated the U.S. economy as "good," although that proportion has risen steadily from 18 percent in 2011. Since that year, the U.S. unemployment rate has tumbled from 9 percent to 4.9 percent.

Politics plays a role in how Americans assess their economy: Just 37 percent of U.S. conservatives give the economy high marks, versus 45 percent of moderates and 55 percent of liberals.

China's economic growth has been decelerating for five years, but 87 percent of Chinese still describe their economy as good. So do 80 percent of Indians and 57 percent of Australians.

People in Japan and in many European countries regard their economies as poor.

No one was more miserable than the Greeks: Just 2 percent rated Greece's economy as good, versus 97 percent who saw it as bad. No surprise: The Greek economy has shrunk 26 percent since 2007, and unemployment is 23.5 percent.

But within Europe, there were exceptions: Germans, Swedes and Dutch rank their economies highly. European men tend to rate their national economies higher than women do.

The survey was taken from April 4 to May 29, which means that the results emerged before Britain voted June 23 to leave the European Union. That vote rattled financial markets and magnified uncertainty about the outlook for the economies of Britain and continental Europe.

Nation

Trump ignites new firestorm: Gun backers might stop Clinton

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Donald Trump ignited a fresh political firestorm Tuesday by declaring gun rights supporters might still find a way to stop Hillary Clinton, even if she should defeat him and then name anti-gun Supreme Court justices. Democrats pounced, accusing him of openly encouraging violence against his opponent.

The Republican presidential nominee has been working this week to move past distracting campaign disputes, but once again he put himself at the center of a blazing controversy.

First, he falsely claimed that Clinton, his Democratic opponent, wants to "essentially abolish the Second Amendment." She has said repeatedly that she supports the Second Amendment right to own guns, though she does back some stricter gun control measures.

Trump then noted the power Clinton would have to nominate justices to the high court.

"By the way, if she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the Second Amendment people—maybe there is, I don't know," Trump told supporters at a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina. "But I'll tell you what. That will be a horrible day."

The reaction from Democrats was immediate. Said her campaign manager, Robby Mook: "This is simple—what Trump is saying is dangerous. A person seeking to be the president of the United States should not suggest violence in any way."

Trump's reaction later as the uproar grew: "Give me a break." Interviewed by Fox News' Sean Hannity, he said everyone in his audience knew he was referring to the power of voters and "there can be no other interpretation."

Trump's campaign sought to quell the controversy with a statement that blamed the "dishonest media" for misinterpretation. And Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, said his boss was talking about the election choice for pro-gun voters, not encouraging violence.

Yet Trump's foes were unconvinced and unforgiving.

Tim Kaine, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, said, "I think it was just revealing ... and I don't find the attempt to roll it back persuasive at all."

Waterslide complaints surface after Kansas boy dies on ride

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—At least two people who rode in the last year on the same Kansas waterslide where a 10-year-old boy was killed say nylon shoulder straps came loose during the raft ride featuring a 17-story drop.

It's unclear whether the straps on "Verruckt"—German for "insane"—played any role in Sunday's death of Caleb Schwab, a Kansas lawmaker's son. Police and Schlitterbahn Waterpark have yet to explain how Caleb sustained a fatal neck injury on the 168-foot-tall ride, which the park said Tuesday would be closed for the remainder of the season.

On the 2-year-old waterslide certified by Guinness World Records as the world's tallest, riders sit in multi-person rafts that begin with the steep drop, followed by a surge up a second hill before a 50-foot descent to a finishing pool. Along the way, riders clutch ropes along the inside of the raft.

Riders are harnessed in with two nylon seatbelt-like straps—one that crosses the rider's lap, the other stretching diagonally like a car shoulder seatbelt. Each strap is held in place by long Velcro-style straps, not by buckles.

Ken Martin, a Richmond, Virginia-based amusement park safety consultant, questioned whether the straps were appropriate for what he called "nothing more than a roller coaster with water."

In early tests, rafts carrying sandbags flew off the slide, prompting engineers to tear down half of the ride and reconfigure some angles. A promotional video about building the slide includes footage of two men riding a raft down a half-size test model and going slightly airborne as it crests the top of the first big hill.

"I think they designed this ride, and they figured since stuff was flying out, we better do something to keep people from flying out," he said. "I think we have a serious issue with the restraint system. Period."

ACROSS THE NATION

Public's help sought after runner's body is found in woods

BOSTON (AP)—Investigators probing the killing of a New York City woman who went for a run near her mother's home in central Massachusetts and later was found dead in the woods said they've received hundreds of tips but don't have any suspects or know if she was targeted or attacked at random. Vanessa Marcotte, a 27-year-old Google account manager, was found dead Sunday night hours after she went for a run near her mother's home in Princeton, a rural town of 3,500 residents about 40 miles west of Boston. Authorities urged residents in the area to remain vigilant and reiterated a call for the public's help. They urged anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area Sunday afternoon to call them.

Small protest in Utah after police cleared in teen shooting

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A small band of protesters calling for an end to police brutality and the resignation of a Utah prosecutor demonstrated in Salt Lake City on Tuesday night after two officers were cleared in the shooting of a teenager. About 25 members of Utah Against Police Brutality and other activist groups stood on the downtown city hall steps holding signs that said "Disarm the Police" and renewing a call for officials to release police body camera footage from the Feb. 27 shooting. "Ultimately, we believe that our public officials and the city and county levels have failed to pursue justice," said Stephen Michael Christian, a member of Utah Against Police Brutality. The group held similar protests over the past few months where marchers blocked traffic and condemned police violence in Utah and around the country, but Tuesday night's gathering was small and peaceful.

Asia

PH groups oppose Marcos burial at heroes' cemetery

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine historical commission, former human rights victims and left-wing groups on Tuesday opposed President Rodrigo Duterte's approval of a plan to bury late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, reigniting a politically divisive and emotional debate.

A coalition of groups opposed to the plan said Marcos was "a plunderer" who "treated the national coffers as his personal piggy bank" and "a dictator who ordered the torture, detention and deaths of thousands who dared question his rule."

They announced plans to hold a protest rally on Sunday. Rep. Edcel Lagman, a member of the coalition, said they will study the possibility of seeking an injunction blocking the burial from the Supreme Court.

Duterte gave the go-ahead Sunday for the burial, which is expected next month. He said Marcos, who was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt, is qualified to be buried at the military-run cemetery as a former soldier and president.

Maria Serena Diokno, head of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, said Tuesday the commission sent a letter to Duterte last month objecting to the plan. She said a study by the commission showed that Marcos' military record "is fraught with myths, factual inconsistencies and lies." She said the commission had not received a response.

The study found that Marcos lied about receiving U.S. medals which he claimed as early as about 1945; that his guerrilla unit, the Ang Mga Maharlika, and his leadership of it were never officially recognized, and that U.S. officials did not recognize Marcos' promotion from major in 1944 to lieutenant colonel by 1947.

It said some of Marcos' actions as a soldier were officially called into question by senior officials in the U.S. military, who it said described Marcos' command over the Allas Intelligence Unit as usurpation, his commissioning of officers as without authority, his collection of money for an airfield as illegal, and his listing of his name on rosters of different units as a malicious criminal act.

US says more military transparency needed in South China Sea

QINGDAO, China (AP)—The response from Beijing and others to an arbitration panel's ruling invalidating China's vast South China Sea maritime claims has brought no surprises, but much more military transparency is needed to reduce tensions in the region, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Tuesday.

Adm. Scott Swift also criticized China-Russia joint naval exercises planned next month in the South China Sea, saying the choice of location was not conducive to "increasing the stability within the region." He also said any decision by China to declare an air defense identification zone over the strategic water body would be "very destabilizing from a military perspective."

Swift was visiting the northern Chinese port of Qingdao as part of efforts to build trust and understanding between the two navies, now locked in a protracted competition for primacy in East Asia, where the U.S. has traditionally been the dominant military power.

Attention has been fixed on the South China Sea since the July 12 ruling by The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in a case brought by the Philippines. China refused to participate in the case or recognize the ruling, and strongly criticized the U.S. for encouraging its ally to pursue the matter.

Since then, Beijing has launched air patrols over the South China Sea, said it would consider declaring an air defense zone and vowed to continue work on man-made islands created from piling sand atop coral reefs in the highly contested Spratly group.

New satellite photos show work proceeding on what seem to be two-dozen hardened concrete airplane hangars on the islands suitable for housing Chinese air force planes, including strategic bombers and inflight refuelers.

The photos were collected and studied by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, and reported in The New York Times. They show construction work on man-made islands at Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief reefs.

US concerned about extrajudicial killings in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The U.S. government has expressed concern over extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users in a bloody crackdown overseen by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and urged his government to ensure law enforcement efforts comply with human rights obligations.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau on Monday also criticized recent remarks by Duterte about the U.S. ambassador in Manila and said Philippine officials have been asked to clarify them.

The president recently referred to U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg with a profanity and accused him of meddling in the Philippine elections.

Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with America and has said he will chart a foreign policy that is not dependent on the U.S., his country's longtime treaty ally. Duterte has also tried to repair relations with China that have been strained over escalating territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

The drug crackdown has left more than 400 suspected dealers dead and more than 4,400 arrested since Duterte took office on June 30. Nearly 600,000 people have surrendered to authorities, hoping to avoid getting killed. The arrests have overwhelmed the country's mostly rundown and already-overcrowded jails.

"We are concerned by these detentions, as well as the extrajudicial killing of individuals suspected to be involved in drug activity in the Philippines," Trudeau said. "We strongly urge the Philippines to ensure its law enforcement efforts comply with its human rights obligations."

"We believe in rule of law. We believe in due process. We believe in respect for universal human rights. We believe, fundamentally, that those aspects ensure and promote long-term security," she said.

Roman Catholic church leaders and human rights groups in the Philippines have also expressed alarm over the widespread killings in reported gunbattles with police or still-unexplained deaths of drug suspects, some of whom were abandoned with cardboard messages warning the public to stay away from illegal drugs or they would die next.

World

Putin, Erdogan agree on steps to mend relations

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—Turkey's president cozied up to his "dear friend" Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in a visit intended to send a message to his allies in the West, whom he blames for what he considers a lack of support after a failed coup.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pressed the United States to extradite the man he claims was behind the failed insurrection, and has sought more funds and visa-free travel from the European Union, but it's unclear what leverage improved ties with Russia could give him.

Putin, in turn, expects Turkey to become more accommodating of Russia's interests in Syria and move faster on major energy projects—demands Ankara could find difficult to meet.

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, greets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Konstantin palace outside St.Petersburg, Russia, on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.

After their talks in St. Petersburg's ornate Konstantin Palace, both leaders emphasized their shared desire to rebuild ties, but it remained unclear if they could reach common ground on the Syrian crisis. While Moscow has backed Syrian President Bashar Assad throughout the nation's civil war and further bolstered that support by launching an air campaign last September, Turkey has pushed for Assad's removal and helped his foes.

Christians say defeating IS won't make Iraq safe for them

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—As operations to retake the militant-held city of Mosul ramp up, Iraqi Christians displaced from the area by the Islamic State group say that even if the militants are defeated militarily, the country will not be safe for minorities.

Qaraqosh, the biggest Christian town on the Nineveh plains in Iraq's north, fell to IS more than two years ago and remains under militant control. Most of its displaced inhabitants are living in camps in Iraq's Kurdish region. Hundreds of others fled to neighboring countries, Europe, the United States and further afield.

On the edge of Irbil's historically Christian neighborhood of Ankawa, 1,200 identical white trailers arranged in neat rows shelter some 5,000 people. A handful of families here say they will return home the day their town is liberated. But many say they would rather leave for abroad. Despite the string of military defeats suffered by IS, they say the militants' incursion into Iraq has thrown the future of the country's minority groups into further uncertainty.

"If organized migration were possible, then I can say that 90 percent of the inhabitants of this camp would leave," said camp manager Father Emanuel Adel Kelo.

Raad Bahnam Samaan, his wife and five children fled their home in Qaraqosh in early August 2014, joining the 150,000 Iraqi Christians who left towns and villages around Mosul for areas under Kurdish control. In the face of the IS advance, Kurdish forces—known as the Peshmerga—largely withdrew from the outskirts of Mosul, and the towns and villages fell rapidly into the militants' hands.

Israel charges UN employee in Gaza Strip for assisting Hamas

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Tuesday said it indicted a Palestinian U.N. employee in the Gaza Strip, accusing him of assisting the territory's Islamic militant Hamas rulers, just days after it charged the Gaza manager of the international charity World Vision for allegedly funneling millions to the group.

Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency said 38-year-old Waheed Borsh has worked as an engineer for UNDP, the U.N. development agency, for 13 years. It said he was arrested in July and confessed to using his position to help Hamas. He was indicted two weeks ago, it said.

The Shin Bet said Borsh used UNDP resources last year to build a jetty for Hamas' naval forces and that upon request by Hamas he persuaded his managers to prioritize the reconstruction of houses damaged in conflicts with Israel in areas where Hamas members lived.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said it has informed U.N. officials of the arrest and the allegations and expects the U.N. to "take concrete measures to ensure that humanitarian activities actually assist those in need in Gaza instead of assisting the terrorist leaders of Hamas."

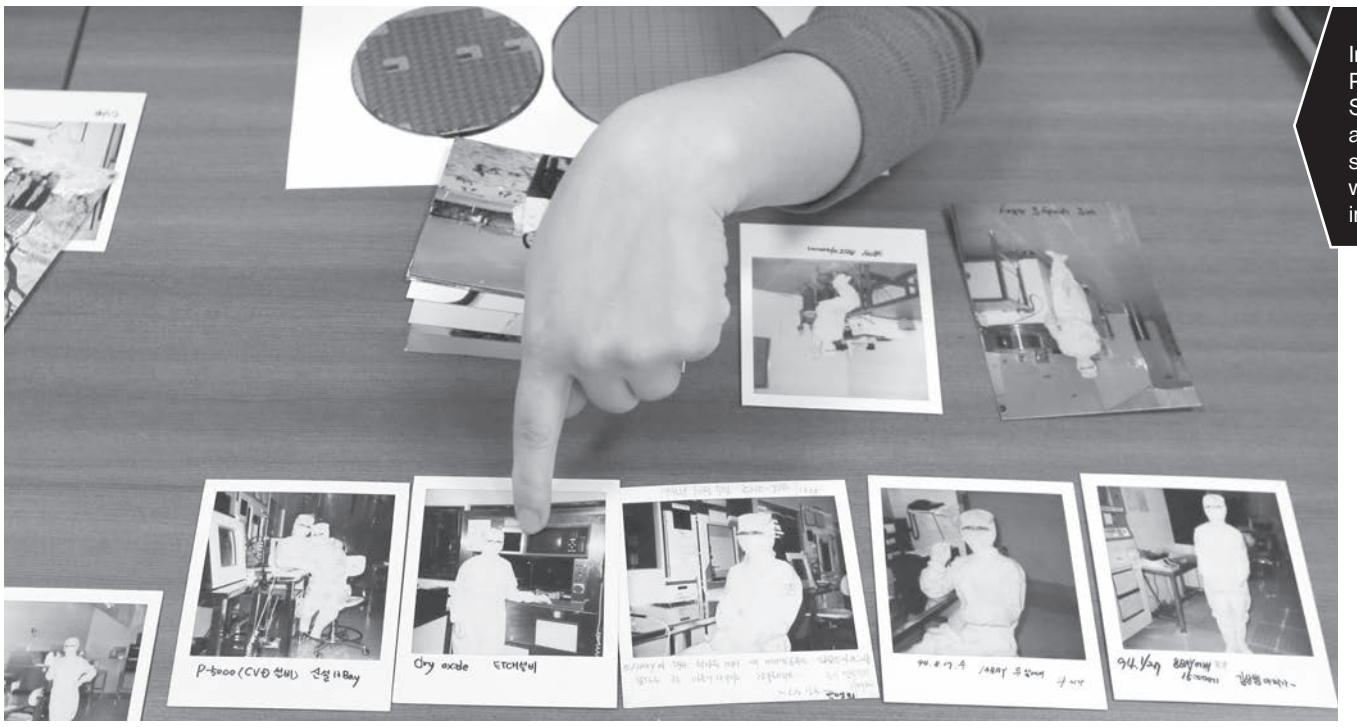
Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon said he was concerned about a "worrying trend of U.N. exploitation by Hamas."

In Gaza, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem denied the allegations. "These Israeli claims are baseless and the purpose of these claims is to justify the continued siege on Gaza."

UNDP said in a statement that it is "greatly concerned" by the allegations and that it has "zero tolerance for wrongdoing" in its programs and projects. "UNDP is conducting a thorough internal review of the processes and circumstances surrounding the allegation," it said.

Tuesday's accusations are less severe than those aimed at Mohammed el-Halabi, World Vision's Gaza office project manager, who last week was charged with diverting some 60 percent of the organization's yearly budget to Hamas' armed wing.

Focus



AP
In this March 5, 2016, photo, Park Min-sook, 43, former Samsung chip factory worker and a breast cancer survivor, shows her pictures taken while working at the factory during an interview in Seoul, South Korea.

2 words keep sick Samsung workers from data: trade secrets

By YOUKYUNG LEE
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As a high school senior, Hwang Yu-mi went to work bathing silicon wafers in chemicals at a Samsung factory that makes computer chips for laptops and other devices. Four years later, she died of leukemia. She was 22.

After Yu-mi's death in 2007, her father, Hwang Sang-gi, learned a 30-year-old worker at the same semiconductor line also had died of leukemia. Convinced they died because of their work, the taxi driver launched a movement demanding the government investigate health risks at Samsung Electronics Co. factories.

When Hwang sued after his first claim for government compensation was denied, he struggled to get details about the factory environment. A government document he received about his daughter's workplace had a section for listing the chemicals used there, but that space was left blank because Samsung did not release that information to worker-safety officials.

An Associated Press investigation has found South Korean authorities have, at Samsung's request, repeatedly withheld from workers and their bereaved families crucial information about chemicals they were exposed to at its computer chip and liquid crystal display factories. Sick workers are supposed to have access to such data through the government or the courts so they can apply for workers' compensation from the state. Without it, government officials commonly reject their cases.

The justification for withholding the information? In at least six cases involving 10 workers, it was trade secrets. Court documents and interviews with government officials, workers' lawyers and their families show Samsung often cites the need to protect trade secrets when it asks government officials not to release such data.

"Our fight is often against trade secrets. Any contents that may not work in Samsung's favor were deleted as trade secrets," said Lim Ja-woon, a lawyer who has represented 15 sick Samsung workers.

Lim's clients have been unable to get access to full reports on facility inspections, which are produced by third parties to comply with South Korean law, but remain the property of Samsung. Only excerpts of some independent inspections can be found in some court rulings, he said.

South Korea law bars governments and public agencies from withholding corporate information needed "to protect the lives, physical safety, and health" of individuals on trade-secrets grounds, but there are no penalties for violations. Lim said the law on occupational disease compensation also obligates Samsung to give workers the data they need to make claims.

Government officials openly say corporate interests take priority, that evaluating trade-secrets claims is difficult, and that they fear being sued for sharing data against a company's will.

"We have to keep secrets that belong to our clients," said Yang Won-baek, of the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, or KOSHA. "It's about trust."

Asked why he used the word "clients" to describe companies his government agency helps regulate, Yang said it's probably because he treats those companies "as I treat clients." He said the companies KOSHA evaluates also review the agency, and the finance ministry considers those reviews when it sets agency budgets.

When asked for comment, Samsung emailed a statement saying it never "intentionally" blocked workers from accessing information and that it is transparent about all chemicals it is required to disclose. It also said there was no case where information disclosure was "illegally prevented."

However, documents from courts and the labor ministry show that as recently as last year, Samsung asked the government not to disclose details of chemical exposure levels and other inspections—even at judges' request for use in workers' compensation lawsuits.

In a letter to regulators signed by the company's CEO, Samsung said that if factory details including "types and volumes of substances" were released for a workers' compensation case, "it is feared that the technology gap with rivals at home and overseas would be reduced and our company's competitiveness would be lowered. For that reason they are trade secrets that we treat strictly as secrets, we request not to disclose."

Although the company no longer omits lists of chemicals as it did in Hwang Yu-mi's case, it has recently withheld details about exposure levels and how its chemicals are managed.

Samsung is South Korea's biggest company by far, with about 100,000 workers. Its market capitalization is more than five times greater than the No. 2 company in this country of 50 million. It employs about 45,000 people in its South Korean semiconductor and LCD departments, though not all of them are factory workers.

The worker safety group Banolim, known as SHARPS in English, has documented more than 200 cases of serious illnesses including leukemia, lupus, lymphoma and multiple sclerosis among former Samsung semiconductor and LCD workers. Seventy-six have died, most in their 20s and 30s.

Since 2008, 56 workers have applied for occupational safety compensation from the government. Only 10 have won compensation, most after years of court battles. Half of the other 46 claims were rejected and half remain under review.

People who have claimed they got sick because of work they did for other major South Korean manufacturers, including Hyundai Motor, have received help from their unions in advancing their claims. Hyundai Motor now must get union approval before introducing new chemicals into its manufacturing processes. Samsung's workforce is not unionized.

Families of the victims, mostly working-class youths from the countryside, often use up their life savings and sell their homes to pay hospital bills, ending up in subsidized housing. Some of the workers ended up incapacitated and unable to work.

Left with few options, more than 100 families accepted a compensation plan Samsung proposed last year, which covered some medical fees and some income for workers with any of 26 diseases. Some families rejected the deal.

Government policies have generally been friendly toward Samsung and other "chaebols," corporate conglomerates that helped drive South Korea's rapid industrialization under dictatorships after the 1950-53 Korean War.

Samsung overtook Japanese memory-chip makers in the early 1990s and through aggressive cost-cutting, bold investment and rapid construction of new factories has dominated the market for two decades.

But that success involves use of toxic and often carcinogenic chemicals such as arsenic, acetone, methane, sulfuric acid and heavy metals such as lead, well-known risks in the production of semiconductors, mobile phones and LCDs.

Kong Jeong-ok, an occupational health physician who works with Banolim, said new chemicals often are used before the risks from them, and from the toxic byproducts created by mixing them, are fully investigated.

Korean companies using such chemicals are required to strictly manage them, submit biannual reports showing exposure levels and give employees that information.

Samsung states on its website that its chemical management system is "rigorous" and "state-of-the art." It has had "real-time 24/7 chemical monitoring" in all facilities since 2007, the year the government began inquiries into Yu-mi's death.

Yet Samsung began monitoring some toxic byproducts in the air only after a 2012 inspection detected benzene and formaldehyde - both known carcinogens—at its chip factories.

Baik Soo-ha, a Samsung Electronics vice president, told the AP that Samsung has redacted trade secrets in documents given to individuals only when their requests appeared not "purely" meant to determine occupational diseases.

"We have a right to protect our information from going to a third party," he said. Baik did not elaborate on what sort of ulterior motives Samsung believes might be behind some requests.

Samsung said it sometimes lacks information about chemicals because its own suppliers, also citing trade secrets, refuse to disclose details. It said suppliers must certify any such materials are non-toxic.

The entire semiconductor industry has longstanding health concerns: The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is reviewing its own standards to better control exposure to chemicals in computer chip production. The OSHA website notes that U.S. laws control maximum allowable exposure on fewer than 500 of the thousands of chemicals used in manufacturing.

Worker safety advocates want South Korea's courts and government to more flexibly interpret links between workplace conditions and diseases, since the exact causes of many ailments suffered by the factory workers are unknown even to the medical community. They also want thorough disclosure of workplace hazards.

Hwang Sang-gi said Samsung offered him 1 billion won ($864,000) in 2007 to not pursue a case over his daughter's death. He said no, founded Banolim and joined four former Samsung semiconductor workers suffering from various blood cancers in filing for workers' compensation.

In 2014, seven years after Yu-mi's death, an appeals court affirmed a lower court's finding of "a significant causal relationship" between Yu-mi's leukemia and her likely exposure to benzene, other chemicals and ionized radiation at work. Hwang Sang-gi received nearly $175,000 from the government.

Also in 2014, Samsung's CEO issued a statement expressing regret that "a solution to this delicate matter (of sick workers) has not been found in a timely manner." It said the company "could have been more diligent" in addressing their "hardship and sorrow." Two years later, the company promised to provide necessary documents to workers seeking government compensation. Earlier this year an ombudsman committee was set up to oversee independent inspections of some Samsung factories.

But some sickened workers and their relatives want a more complete apology and changes to how compensation is awarded. Hwang and other campaigners regularly camp outside Samsung's complex in Gangnam to protest. They view suing Samsung as a poor option; the standard of proof would be higher than in workers' compensation

See SAMSUNG on Next Page

Environment

In Mexico, high avocado prices fueling deforestation

By MARK STEVENSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Americans' love for avocados and rising prices for the highly exportable fruit are fueling the deforestation of central Mexico's pine forests as farmers rapidly expand their orchards to feed demand.

Avocado trees flourish at about the same altitude and climate as the pine and fir forests in the mountains of Michoacan, the state that produces most of Mexico's avocados. That has led farmers to wage a cat-and-mouse campaign to avoid authorities, thinning out the forests, planting young avocado trees under the forest canopy, and then gradually cutting back the forest as the trees grow to give them more sunlight.

"Even where they aren't visibly cutting down forest, there are avocados growing underneath (the pine boughs), and sooner or later they'll cut down the pines completely," said Mario Tapia Vargas, a researcher at Mexico's National Institute for Forestry, Farming and Fisheries Research.

Given that Michoacan's forests contain much of the wintering grounds of the monarch butterfly, the deforestation is more than just an academic issue. Authorities have already detected small avocado plots in the monarchs' reserve where farmers have cut down pine forest.

Worse, Tapia Vargas said, a mature avocado orchard uses almost twice as much water as fairly dense forest, meaning less water reaches Michoacan's legendary crystalline mountain streams on which the forests and animals depend.

Greenpeace Mexico says people are likely to suffer, too.

"Beyond the displacement of forests and the effects on water retention, the high use of agricultural chemicals and the large volumes of wood needed to pack and ship avocados are other factors that could have negative effects on the area's environment and the well-being of its inhabitants," Greenpeace said in a statement.

The two-lane rural roads that cut through the mountains are choked with lines of heavy trucks carrying avocados out and pickers in to the orchards.

AP
Avocados are displayed for sale in a large market in Mexico City, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016. Avocado trees flourish at about the same altitude and climate as the pine and fir forests of Michoacan, the state that produces most of Mexico's avocados. That has led farmers to fight a game of cat-and-mouse with authorities, thinning the forests and planting young avocado trees under the canopy.

But it is hard to argue farmers out of the economic logic of growing avocados.

"Avocado farming is very attractive, because of the prices being the way they are," Tapia Vargas said.

Avocado prices jumped from around 86 cents apiece in January to around $1.10 in July, partly because of weak seasonal supply from Mexico. And the peso lost 16 percent of its value against the dollar over the past year, making exports cheaper for the U.S. customers. Mexican farmers can make much higher profits growing avocados than from most other crops.

It is the enormous U.S. appetite for avocados that has driven the expansion. Between 2001 and 2010, avocado production in Michoacan tripled, but exports rose 10 times, according to a report published in 2012 by Tapia Vargas' institute.

The report suggested the expansion caused loss of forest land of about 1,700 acres (690 hectares) a year from 2000 through 2010.

Ignacio Vidales, another government researcher who specializes in avocados, said he believes the deforestation rate has slowed, in part because authorities are taking it more seriously.

"We think that it (deforestation) is less, because there is more enforcement now than in previous years," said Vidales.

Authorities have begun to fight back.

On July 31, federal police in Morelia, the Michoacan state capital, detained 13 people and seized two avocado plants and two vehicles that were being used to turn a recently deforested plot into an orchard.

Police said 260 pine trees and 87 firs had been cut down on a 12-acre (4.7-hectare) plot to make room for 1,320 avocado saplings. While the trees take seven years to reach maturity, if each bore 100 avocados a year - a fairly low yield - those farmers could make as much as $500,000 annually from the plot, a fortune for area farmers.

"More than anything else, it is economic pressure," Vidales said. "They have seen that planting avocados is more profitable than planting corn, or other crops, or even the forest."

SAMSUNG

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cases, and they could not seek punitive damages under South Korean law.

Workers and their bereaved families say it remains difficult to obtain details about their working conditions:

■ When asked for records from Samsung's LCD factory in Cheonan, where 32-year-old Lee Hee-jin worked from 2002 to 2006 before falling ill with multiple sclerosis, the labor ministry sent a report in 2014, but from a different factory, in Asan. Even that report could have shed light on the case of Lee and other display workers because it was a rare record of display factory working conditions. But it was heavily redacted by Samsung on grounds of protecting trade secrets. When asked about the heavy redaction, Samsung told the AP that the report was not related to her case because it was not from the place Lee was employed. The Supreme Court is considering Lee's appeal after lower courts rejected her compensation claim.

■ Citing "business confidentiality," the labor ministry refused to give chemical-exposure data for Lee Beom-woo, an engineer who died of leukemia after working from 1986 to 2014 at Samsung's Onyang semiconductor plant. Lee's case is under review. About 50 of the plant's workers have contracted serious environment-related diseases, according to Banolim.

■ Cho Eun-joo, a Samsung display plant worker, died last year at age 22 of blood cancer. Her mother, Kim Kyung-hee, and her lawyer, Lee Eun-jeong, said Samsung officials denied the possibility that Cho was sickened by the workplace conditions, so they pieced together information from Cho and her friends to make their case, which is under government review.

■ Sohn Kyung-joo, a former manager at a semiconductor contractor to Samsung, died of leukemia at age 53 after working in chemicals-intensive cleanrooms for about six years. Cleanroom entrance logs, the sole way to prove his exposure to toxins at work, were destroyed after only three months because they are kept only for security purposes. Sohn's family has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the government's refusal of compensation.

Hwang Kyu-seok, a deputy director at the labor ministry's industrial health department, said disclosures of data on chemical exposure are made on a case-by-case basis.

The government "usually accept companies' requests to withhold details on trade-secrets grounds," said Goo Ja-hwan, head of a regional labor ministry team in charge of occupational disaster prevention.

"We generally accept (their requests) because it is difficult to evaluate whether their arguments are wrong," said Goo, who is based in Cheonan, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Seoul. "We cannot evaluate whether things that companies have hidden as secrets are real trade secrets or not."

Baskut Tuncak, the U.N. special rapporteur on hazardous substances and waste, said in a phone interview that no government should say it's unable to determine what corporate information should be kept confidential.

"That simply allows their abuse of the system where information about hazardous substances is hidden from the public from victims under claims of confidentiality," he said.

Recently, there has been some movement toward greater transparency.

In June, for the first time, the government's worker safety agency formally designated a case of malignant lymphoma as an occupational disease at a Samsung semiconductor factory, despite Samsung's refusal to hand over exposure data and other information. Samsung cited trade secrets, but also said it lacked some data.

Banolim praised the ruling as a step forward, because the agencies did not hold the absence of data against the workers.

"It didn't rely on the company and made an independent evaluation," said Lee Jong-ran, a labor lawyer with Banolim. "But it took three years and eight months. It took too long."

In Celebration of her new life

†Victoria Borja Cepeda

Lovingly Known as "Tora"

December 24, 1945 – August 04, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Albert Manibusan Cepeda
Parents: †Francisco Santos Borja and Rosalia Mafnas Borja
Parents In-Law: †Vicente Ilano Cepeda and Nicholasa Manibusan Cepeda
Reared Parents: †Joaquin Borja and Maria Santos Borja (Tuhu')

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her Children and families:

Trinidad C. and Joaquin Dela Cruz {Jack Albert, Vicky, Zachary, Nathan}
Rebecca C. and Peter Paul C. Camacho {Paul Jr, Albert, Kimberly}
Jose Albert B. and Sally Z.Cepeda {Albert, Henry, Jesse}
Raymond B. and Agnes C. Cepeda {Ranaesha, Reina, Alyssa}
Margarette C. and Kevin L. Aldan {Alberta, Kelanie, Margarette, Kevin Jr, Miracle}
†Thelma C. and Wilfredo V. Calantog {Wilson, Steffany}

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
William M. and Lourdes Borja
†Felisa B. and †David Babauta
Carmen B. and †Bernard DLGuerrero
Antonio M. and Lisa Borja
†Jesus M. Borja
Luna Borja
John M. and Melinda Borja
Maria B. and †Pedro Muna
Patricia B. and †Sam Robert

Antonia C. and Larry Cepeda
†Isabel C. and Joe DLGuerrero
†Luis M. and Lupe M. Cepeda
Rosa M. Cepeda
Lourdes C. and Gerado Paguiligan

Care Giver: Alejo Gutijer

She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren, great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated nightly at 6:00 pm at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church, Kagman followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, August 12, 2016. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 am. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers.

Children and families of the late
†Albert M. Cepeda and †Victoria Borja Cepeda

Life & Style

Family films span generations for Bryce Dallas Howard

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Bryce Dallas Howard remembers as a child watching the 1977 film "Pete's Dragon" on repeat until the VHS was worn out. She even hung onto her old "Pete's Dragon" board book to read it to her two children. So when she heard there was a script for a new take on the fantastical story of a little boy and his dragon friend, she actively sought it out.

What started as pure, sentimental curiosity led to a starring role in Disney's new version of "Pete's Dragon " from indie director David Lowery. Howard plays the park ranger who stumbles upon this mysterious boy (Oakes Fegley) living in the woods and becomes his protector as they unearth the mystery of this so-called dragon who he claims is his friend. The film is out Friday.

"This movie is so sentimental for me because it reminded me of a lot of those movies I loved growing up that had real gravitas to them and real emotion," Howard said. "You felt transported."

As the progeny of two generations of entertainers, including her mother, actress and producer Cheryl Howard, and father, actor, director and producer Ron Howard, it's no surprise that movies have been a backdrop in Howard's life for as long as she can remember. In fact, her first sentence was uttered at a showing of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." (It was, she's told, "E.T. fly!").

AP

In this July 15, 2016 photo, actress Bryce Dallas Howard, a cast member in the film "Pete's Dragon," poses for a portrait at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Those films hold a special spot for Howard as reminders of her family legacy, her emotional development and how she's passing that on to her own children. Howard shares a few of those stories:

A FAIRY TALE LEGACY

Howard's grandparents, Rance Howard and the late Jean Speegle Howard met as teenagers doing a touring children's production in Oklahoma of classic fairy tales like Snow White and Cinderella. They even married on the tour dressed in their costumes, with her grandmother as Snow White and her grandfather as a huntsman.

"I come from a family who has a very romantic notion of fairy tales and that seeping into reality," Howard said.

Her grandmother imparted on her a love of classic Disney animated films through repeated viewings and trips to Disneyland. A talented seamstress, she would also make her costumes from her favorites like "Snow White," ''Cinderella," and "Alice in Wonderland."

LEARNING FROM DARKNESS

In the films she loved growing up and in this new interpretation of "Pete's Dragon," Howard has always seen the value in family films that don't shy away from trauma and darkness.

"The reality of life is that trauma exists and you can move forward from trauma. You can heal from trauma," Howard said. "That's the power of Disney. It's not just there to entertain, it's there to enlighten. I know they provided me with a lot of growth ... Children are going to create monsters. If you try to shelter a child completely from all dangers, they're going to be ill-equipped for the world. These movies are kind of giving children the tools to deal with those monsters so that they can learn to face them in their own way."

PASSING THE TORCH

While many parents can't wait to inundate their children with the films they loved from their youths, Howard and her husband, actor Seth Gabel, have a little more patience and an overriding theory.

"We mess this up all the time, but, if we can, we want to space them out so that the movies come at a time in their life when they're asking themselves similar questions," Howard said. "My son is 9 ½, he's going into fourth grade, he's really coming into this place where there is independence and mischief and friendships independent from the family, so we just showed him 'Aladdin.'"

For her 4 ½ year old daughter, it's still all about "Frozen," which has meant a slew of questions about the definition of words like "fractal," ''effigy," and "unconscious."

"In delaying it, it doesn't just become something that they watched when they were younger. It's something that they really look forward to and understand and hopefully can see the big picture," she said. "My parents are always encouraging (us) to be a little less precious, which is kind of ironic. They were very precious!"

'American Crime Story' writers focusing on Hurricane Katrina

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—As "The People v. O.J. Simpson" rides the high of its 22 Emmy nominations, the writing team behind season two of the FX anthology series "American Crime Story" is hard at work on scripts for the next installment, which focuses on Hurricane Katrina.

"We want the events that brought America together and also that shine a light on the parts of America that maybe we don't want to acknowledge," said executive producer Brad Simpson on Tuesday following a panel for TV critics about "The People v. O.J. Simpson." "I think with Katrina there's a lot of stuff. This was a natural disaster waiting to happen, and it will happen again in America."

Simpson credits series creator and writer Ryan Murphy with the idea of tackling Katrina in season two. But Simpson says he and his producing partner Nina Jacobson had long been fascinated with the idea of a story about the topic.

"There were crimes that happened during Katrina. Murders, rapes, you know, and there's also the crime of us not rescuing these people and not being prepared to take care of New Orleans," he said.

AP

In this March 30, 2016 file photo, executive producers Brad Simpson, left, and Nina Jacobson attend FX Networks upfront premiere of "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" in New York.

Simpson also said the production team was careful to not pick another courtroom drama.

"We don't want to repeat ourselves, and that's part of the thing. We did the crime of the century. We like to define crime broadly. ... I love true crime, but I just don't love one kind. We'll probably someday pick maybe something along the lines of a less famous case that has great, juicy stuff. We'd like to tell the story of injustice. We wish we had 'Making a Murderer' or 'Serial'. .. but, you know, those (topics) have been done. We're exploring lots of formats throughout history."

As for source material on Katrina, Simpson said they "have a book" they're working off of but also employ a researcher helping to gather information.

Simpson adds that once the scripts are more concrete, they will know which roles they have to cast. But they would like to tap from the "People v. O.J." if they can.

"We'd like to use as many actors as we can. It's gonna be subject to availability whether we have the right roles. You know, certainly Sterling (K. Brown), (John) Travolta, Sarah (Paulson), Cuba (Gooding, Jr.). We'd like to figure out if there are roles for them."

He wouldn't confirm a character of former President George W. Bush, who was named in much of the criticism about Katrina. But Simpson said, "The people that you'd imagine are probably gonna be in it, and then people that you don't know will also be in it."

Season 2 of "American Crime Story" is slated to return to FX in 2017.

Spotify's Top 10 most viral tracks

The following list represents the most viral tracks on Spotify, based on the number of people who shared it divided by the number who listened to it, from Friday July 29, to Thursday August 4, via Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Spotify.

UNITED STATES

1. Emmalyn, "#FreeT(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)es" (Emmalyn)
2. Closer, "The Chainsmokers" (Columbia Records)
3. Home Alone, "Ansel Elgort" (Island Records)
4. F(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk) Apologies. (feat. Wiz Khalifa), "JoJo" (Atlantic Records)
5. Dang! (feat. Anderson .Paak), "Mac Miller" (Warner Bros. Records)
6. That's Not Me, "Conditioner" (Conditioner)
7. Next 2 U (feat. Kiki Halliday), "Matt Dimona" (Matt DiMona)
8. blisters, "serpentwithfeet" (Tri Angle Records)
9. U, "Folly Rae" (The Portfolio Music)
10. Roses, "SAINt JHN" (SAINt JHN)

UNITED KINGDOM

1. Mac Miller, "Dang! (feat. Anderson .Paak)" (Warner Bros. Records)
2. Ledinsky, "DonaldTrumpMakesMeWannaSmokeCrack" (Atlantic Records)
3. Robotaki, "Ghostboy" (Majestic Records)
4. Ansel Elgort, "Home Alone" (Island Records)
5. Amar Arshi, "Kala Chashma (From "Baar Baar Dekho")" (Zee Music Company)
6. Emmalyn, "#FreeT(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)es" (Emmalyn)
7. Douglas Dare, "Doublethink" (Erased Tapes Records)
8. Glass Animals, "Youth" (Wolf Tone)
9. Factory Floor, "Ya" (DFA LLC)
10. Ravyn Lenae, "Free Room (feat. Appleby)" (Three Twenty Three Records)

GLOBAL

1. Ansel Elgort, "Home Alone" (Island Records)
2. Emmalyn, "#FreeT(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)es" (Emmalyn)
3. The Chainsmokers, "Closer" (Columbia Records)
4. Mac Miller, "Dang! (feat. Anderson .Paak)" (Warner Bros. Records)
5. Mahama, "Spoke The Words—Radio Edit" (Sony Music Australia/Ultra)
6. JoJo, "F(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk) Apologies. (feat. Wiz Khalifa)" (AtlanticRecords)
7. Conditioner, "That's Not Me" (Conditioner)
8. Ledinsky, "DonaldTrumpMakesMeWannaSmokeCrack" (Atlantic Records)
9. Martin Garrix, "In The Name Of Love" (Sony Music Netherlands)
10. Major Lazer, "Cold Water (feat. Justin Bieber & MØ)" (Mad Decent/Def Jam)

(AP)

Hearing on Johnny Depp domestic violence allegations delayed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A hearing on Amber Heard's allegations that Johnny Depp physically abused her is expected to last up to a week, prompting a judge Tuesday to delay its start.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carl H. Moor ruled Tuesday that the hearing will begin Aug. 17, two days later than planned. Moor ordered the delay after concluding the hearing may take up to five days.

The domestic violence allegations are one aspect of the actors' contentious divorce. Heard filed to divorce Depp on May 23, and a few days later obtained a temporary restraining order after accusing the actor of repeatedly hitting her during a fight in their Los Angeles apartment.

AP

In this Nov. 3, 2011 file photo, U.S. actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive for the European premiere of their film, "The Rum Diary," in London.

Depp's lawyer has denied the allegations, and she said Tuesday he wants the hearing concluded as quickly as possible. "This is weighing heavily on my client," attorney Laura Wasser said.

If Heard prevails, the restraining order against Depp could be extended for up to five years.

Heard wants to call Depp as a hostile witness during the proceedings.

Moor ordered Heard to sit for a deposition on Friday and Depp to give sworn testimony in advance of the hearing on Saturday.

Depp will not be allowed to attend Heard's deposition, Moor ruled.

Heard accused Depp of repeatedly hitting her and throwing a cellphone during a fight in their Los Angeles apartment in May. A judge ordered Depp to not contact Heard and stay 100 yards away from her.

Los Angeles police responded to their apartment,

Glover didn't return to 'Community' because he likes endings

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Donald Glover says his decision to not return to "Community" for its series finale on Yahoo! wasn't a reflection of his time on the show.

"I just like endings," he said Tuesday at an annual summer press event for TV critics.

"I think everything should have death clauses in them," he said. "It's important that things end. ... I get really frustrated in the world because I see a lot of things that could be better but aren't better because things haven't died yet."

Glover appeared on the comedy that also starred Joel McHale, Gillian Jacobs and Alison Brie. The show aired on NBC for six seasons until it was canceled and then picked up by Yahoo! at the last minute for its final season.

"I had so much fun on 'Community.' It wasn't that I wanted to run away. ... That's why (series creator Dan Harmon) ended it. He likes endings too."

Glover, in the meantime, remains busy. He's a musician who performs under the name Childish Gambino. He also created, executive produces, directs and stars in a new series coming to FX called "Atlanta." He plays an aspiring rapper. The show premieres in September.

AP

Donald Glover participates in the "Atlanta" panel during the FX Television Critics Association summer press tour on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

NBC says Rio Olympic viewership reaches parity with London

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC said its Olympic audience reached parity with the London Games for the first time on the third night of competition. But there's an asterisk involved in the claim.

The network said that its "total audience delivery" was 31.5 million for the Olympics on Monday night in prime time, compared to the virtually identical 31.6 million who watched on the corresponding night in London in 2012.

The "total audience delivery" figure is a statistic NBC hurriedly invented when it saw sharp declines in its traditional ratings for the first couple of nights of the Rio de Janeiro Games. The Nielsen company said the television audience on NBC on Monday was 28.9 million—strong, but short of London levels.

AP

The Olympic rings decorate the sail of Ukraine's Oleksandr Tugaryev as he prepares to compete in the men's RS:X at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.

But NBC is adding the viewership for prime-time telecasts on cable's NBCSN (1.6 million) and Bravo (720,000) and people who streamed video online (about 300,000) to boost the number to 31.5 million—its "total audience delivery."

NBC says the comparison is valid because even though the cable viewers weren't watching the same thing as people tuned in to NBC, they were still watching the Olympics. There's no comparable number from 2012, because the company didn't allow its cable affiliates and website to compete with the prime-time NBC telecast four years ago.

"One of the indicators of changing viewer habits, especially with these Olympics, is that our digital consumption has more than tripled from London in each of the first three days of full competition," NBC Sports Group chairman Mark Lazarus said. "We've also been pleasantly surprised that our multi-platform strategy is paying big dividends."

Handyman's unwanted attention ruins excitement of new job

DEAR ABBY: About six months ago, I started a new job I really enjoy. A handyman who does odd jobs around the building was working on the floor in my area. He was chatty and I made polite conversation, but now things have escalated.

He has started contacting me on social media to the point where I had to block him. He tries to talk to me daily and I am feeling very uncomfortable. He's twice my age and I have no interest in him, romantically or otherwise.

It has reached the point where I have a great deal of anxiety about going to work. I feel uncomfortable and intimidated. It's especially difficult because I work alone most of the day, so I am nervous he might try to harm me.

How should I approach this without it turning into a huge deal at work? I want to let my manager know, but I'm afraid it'll only cause more issues and make things worse. I'm afraid to make him mad, and afraid about what he might do. Any advice would be great.

AFRAID HE'LL HARM ME

DEAR AFRAID: Talk to your manager about this immediately. This man should not be attempting to have a personal relationship with you in or out of work. He needs to be told to stop bothering you during work hours or attempting to contact you afterward, because if he doesn't, he could be cited for harassment or lose his job.

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and a dog sitter. I work through a company that sets up the visits and stay overnight with different families' dogs.

There's one family I sit for regularly. I absolutely love their two dogs and the family themselves. I stay anywhere from two nights to seven nights and work a second job on the weekdays. After walking, feeding, etc. is done, I have a ton of free time.

My dilemma: I'd like my long-term boyfriend to stay with me for a night or two on the weekends. I'm having trouble figuring out how—or if—I should ask them. They have never met my boyfriend, but I have proven my own trustworthiness because they keep asking me to come back.

I will go through my boss first, but I'm worried that the family may be offended if I even ask. Should I ask, or should I just let it be since it's part of my job? Help!

THE DOG SITTER

DEAR DOG SITTER: You are in the dog-sitting BUSINESS, and if you want to be successful, you need to view it as such. Definitely discuss this question with your employer. Because you are working through a company, that company could be liable for any property loss or damage that might occur while your boyfriend was staying in a client's home with you.

But if there's any question in your mind about how asking your clients to have your boyfriend stay with you in their house will be received, don't do it. Some families have moral values that would preclude unmarried couples sleeping together under their roof. For the sake of your own credibility, please consider what I'm trying to convey to you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

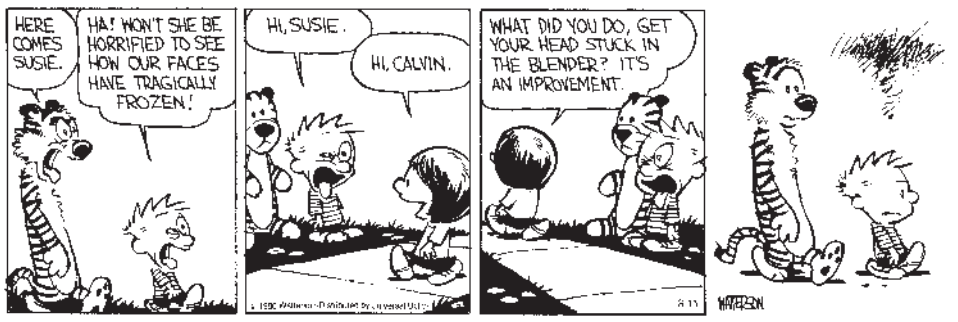
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE COMES SUSIE.
HA! WON'T SHE BE HORRIFIED TO SEE HOW OUR FACES HAVE TRAGICALLY FROZEN!
HI, SUSIE.
HI, CALVIN.
WHAT DID YOU DO, GET YOUR HEAD STUCK IN THE BLENDER? IT'S AN IMPROVEMENT.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

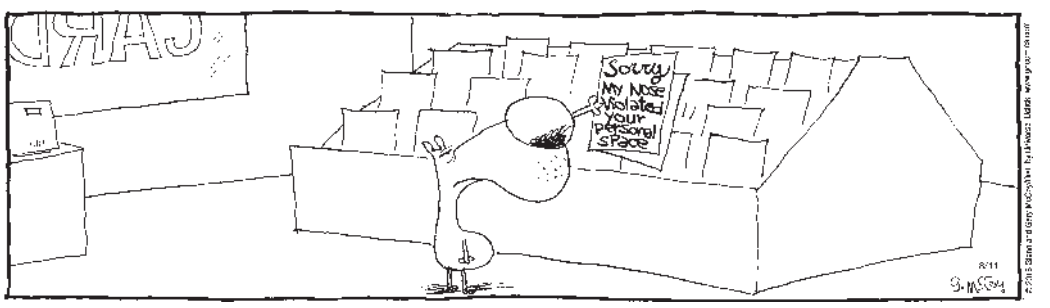
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

COME ON, LITTLE SKEETER. A LITTLE CLOSER.
YES... GO INTO THE LIGHT, LITTLE ONE.
GRIZZLT!
WHOO!!
THE BLOODLUST IS STRONG IN THAT ONE.
STEP RIGHT UP!! RIDE THE LIGHTNING!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

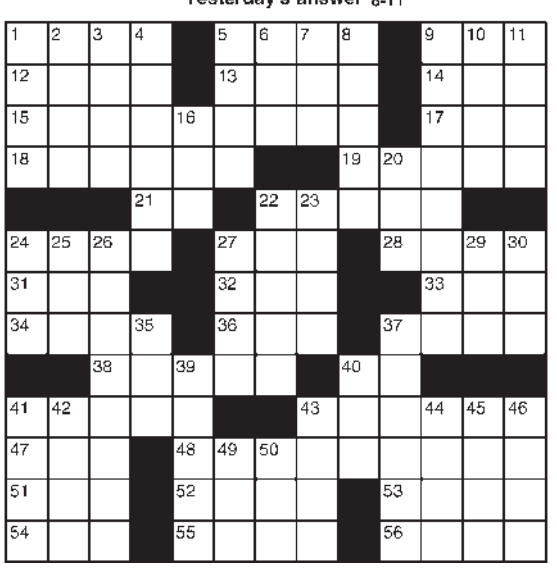
1 Satchels
5 Huck's transport
9 Select, with "for"
12 Big name in scat
13 Actor Epps
14 Hasten
15 Wisconsin city
17 Stimpy's pal
18 Donated 10 percent
19 Tennis great Chris
21 Harris or Asner
22 Cruising
24 Booty
27 Bake sale org.
28 Amorphous mass
31 Fiddle stick
32 The whole enchilada
33 Zodiac feline
34 Baby kangaroo
36 "Norma —"
37 Greek pita sandwich
38 Castle barriers
40 Scale member
41 Evil spirit
43 Infamous Borden
47 Scamper
48 Willa Cather work
51 — -de-France
52 Director Ephron
53 Honey bunch?
54 Has permission
55 Dutch cheese
56 — buco

DOWN

1 Borscht base
2 Jai —
3 Satiate
4 Potpourri pouch
5 Street
6 Parisian pal
7 Distant
8 Kilmer poem
9 "Is that so?"
10 Loading zone
11 Circus structure
16 Started
20 Be a couch potato
22 World record?
23 Story
24 JFK's veep
25 Tic-tac-toe win
26 Have debts
27 Fraction
29 Not 'neath
30 Scary cry
35 "How dare —!"
37 Garden pavilion
39 Stag
40 Shark feature
41 Bleak
42 Luau dance
43 Clay-rich soil
44 Zorro's marks
45 Enrages
46 Canadian gas brand
49 Group of whales
50 A Gershwin brother

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Hemsworth, 33; Ashley Jensen, 47; Viola Davis, 51; Hulk Hogan, 63.

Happy Birthday: Watch out for someone who promises wealth but offers only questionable schemes. Think for yourself and don't give in to idle promises and wishful thinking. Manage your money carefully and make sure your contracts are ironclad. Once you feel you have secured your assets, you will be able to enjoy life's little pleasures without worry. Your numbers are 7, 12, 15, 27, 34, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Bring about positive changes. Meditate, go on a retreat or learn something new that will help you move forward in a positive manner. Don't let a disagreement with a colleague or loved one slow your progress. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pay close attention to how others respond to your requests. Their reactions will help you decide what your next move should be. Refuse to give in to someone's unrealistic expectations. Others will disappoint you if given too much leeway. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be questioned about your choices. Don't give in to emotional blackmail, bribery or poor judgment. Do your best to show discipline, and focus on self-improvement. Loyalty will be an issue when dealing with partnerships. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will gather enough confidence to sway someone's opinion and impress others with your insight and plans. Take charge of a project and put your knowledge and skills to use. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Fix your surroundings or you will be subject to criticism. Consider what you can learn in order to make financial gains. You shouldn't have to spend a lot in order to raise your income. Deliver on a promise and see what happens. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Speak up, but be willing to listen to the feedback you receive. It's important to compromise if you want to get things done. An argument will not solve problems. An opportunity to do something unique will impress those around you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your part or someone will complain. You may know how to keep the peace from a distance, but this time hands-on help will be required. Don't waste time trying to talk your way out of a tough situation—do something about it. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your emotions help you get a glimpse of what's possible. Compassion and realistic solutions will help you get what you want personally and professionally. Don't give in to negativity or oppression. Strive for perfection and progress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Think twice before you make a move or get into a debate that governs your reputation or future prospects. Focus on personal improvements and changing your surroundings to encourage a healthier and happier future. Take care of your needs first. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take pride in what you do and stay away from those who want to take advantage of you. Taking care of personal affairs and making astute changes at home should help you alleviate any foreseeable problems. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Step up the pace and take measures to finish what you start. Being responsible will help you avoid being tested by others. Trust in your abilities and get the job done. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Problems with friends and relatives will send you on a tailspin. Try to get along with your immediate family members, but don't give in to a situation that you know is detrimental to your health or financial future. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, brave and sympathetic. You are engaging and full of surprises.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8		9			
		6	7		2	1		
	7						8	
6	3			5			1	2
4	8			7			9	6
	1						5	
		8	2		4	7		
			6		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	9	1	6	5	8	2	3
1	8	5	3	4	2	7	6	9
6	2	3	7	8	9	5	4	1
9	1	6	5	7	4	2	3	8
7	4	2	9	3	8	1	5	6
3	5	8	2	1	6	9	7	4
2	6	4	8	9	7	3	1	5
5	9	1	6	2	3	4	8	7
8	3	7	4	5	1	6	9	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NINE-PIN BOWLING — Solution: 9 letters

P	F	S	S	R	E	N	R	O	C	A	L	L	E	R
O	R	C	S	T	R	I	K	E	K	B	A	S	E	E
I	A	O	I	B	E	L	G	I	U	M	E	L	S	C
N	M	R	F	N	H	S	E	N	A	L	D	L	S	O
T	E	E	H	E	C	N	R	U	T	O	O	A	P	R
S	S	A	U	E	S	L	N	T	O	V	X	L	Ⓐ	D
L	Q	I	N	S	O	S	I	P	E	E	A	Ⓘ	Y	C
L	U	T	G	R	G	K	I	N	T	Y	Ⓜ	N	D	B
O	E	A	A	I	S	N	I	O	E	R	A	E	N	O
R	E	O	R	G	S	A	I	R	N	M	O	U	A	W
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L	A	C	I	T	R	E	V	E	T	Y	L	G	S	E
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T	F	E	L	M	A	E	T	E	A	I	B	R	E	S
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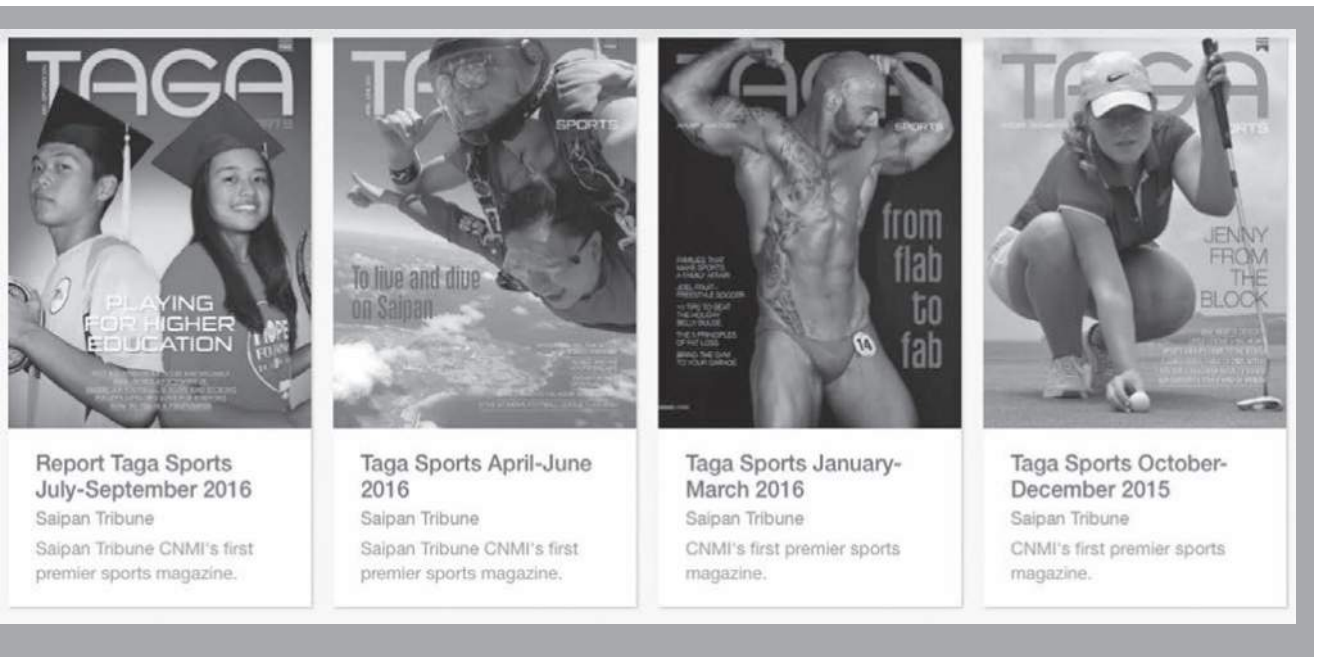

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Colts keeping quiet about details of new-look offense

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—Rob Chudzinski is keeping the Indianapolis Colts' new-look offense top secret.

Andrew Luck is helping out.

As the final week of training camp began at Anderson University on Tuesday, both are revealing little about what to expect. The cancellation of Sunday's preseason opener against Green Bay delayed the fans' first chance to see how things might go on game day.

"Chud certainly has a playbook with different combinations that can beat every type of defense," Luck said, referring to his third offensive coordinator in five seasons. "The offense is designed to attack and beat every style and type of defense."

This much is clear: Things will be different in 2016.

Indy drafted four offensive linemen in hopes of keeping their star quarterback healthy and off the ground. New quarterbacks coach Brian Schottenheimer is working on Luck's footwork and trying to get him to make throws quicker.

Fans appreciate seeing Luck's baseball slide. Chudzinski, a former tight end who took over as interim offensive coordinator in November following Pep Hamilton's firing, is believed to favor the intermediate passing game and power running.

Nobody knows for sure, of course, and the Colts are unlikely to provide few hints before the Sept. 11 season opener against Detroit.

"Right now we're installing, so every single day is a little bit different and we're doing different things on every single day," Chudzinski said last week. "Once we get through the bulk of our installs, we'll start pulling it together and really refining."

In some cases, the changes will be less noticeable to the general public.

In addition to promoting Chudzinski and adding Schottenheimer, the Colts brought in former Dolphins head coach Joe Philbin to fix the offensive line, Jemal Singleton to coach running backs and Lee Hull to work with receivers. Philbin has a hands-on approach, something the linemen have embraced.

Chudzinski also plans to take advantage of a new NFL rule that allows coordinators to directly radio plays from the coaches' box to the quarterback. Last season, he relayed the calls to quarterbacks coach Clyde Christensen, who sent them into Luck.

"That's where I've called games from for a variety of reasons," Chudzinski said. "Being on the sideline, there is an advantage in terms of if you can't hear something or if it cuts out, which happens. Things cut out at times and that's a pretty regular type (of) occurrence, and you're close enough to where sometimes you can even yell it out from the sidelines. We have to work through those."

Chudzinski intends to use the preseason games to iron out the kinks, and there are a few other obstacles.

Rookie center Ryan Kelly, Indy's first-round draft pick, injured his left shoulder during Indy's second practice in full pads. Kelly missed more than a week before returning Tuesday afternoon. Right tackle Joe Reitz is listed as day to day with a groin injury, and Hugh Thornton's chance to compete for the starting right guard job has been derailed by a nagging ankle injury.

Sunday's surprise cancellation added another wrinkle for the Colts, who will now play their first preseason game Aug. 13 at Buffalo.

"We were going to basically treat games one and two as one. We missed out on those snaps in Week 1," Pagano said. "So we'll adjust and go back and look at it and see how this week goes."

Meanwhile, NFL fields have come a long way from the days of lumpy artificial surfaces, but there's still a lot of room for improvement, the head of the players' union said Tuesday.

Bengals offensive lineman Eric Winston said the league and the NFL Players Association need to identify trouble spots in advance. He noted that running back Reggie Bush tore a knee ligament after slipping on concrete alongside the playing field in St. Louis last season.

The annual Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio was called off Sunday night because paint had congealed on the field, making it hard and slippery.

"I think there's a ton of improvement still to be made," Winston said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Obviously there are technological advancements. I think they should apply to fields as well."

The NFLPA and the league have formed a committee to evaluate field conditions overall. The league already has standards for game-day field conditions.

"The new committee will perform research and advise the parties on injury prevention, improved testing methods, and the adoption of tools and techniques to evaluate and improve field surface performance and playability," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said in an email.

NFL fields have come a long way in the last 15 years. Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia had numerous issues with its uneven artificial surface. Bears receiver Wendell Davis tore tendons in both knees when his foot got caught in a seam in 1993. A preseason game was called off in 2001 because of the uneven surface.

When the Bengals moved into Paul Brown Stadium in 2000, they used a grass surface that tore up easily and left the field sandy, causing kickers to fall. The team switched to an artificial surface.

One of the union's concerns is the wear and tear on fields that host many events.

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) hands off to running back Frank Gore during the NFL team's football training camp in Anderson, Ind., Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.

Kubiak holds off on naming starting QB for preseason opener

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Gary Kubiak was expected to announce his starting quarterback Tuesday morning for Denver's preseason opener. The Broncos coach instead dragged out the drama another 24 hours.

The biggest question at Broncos training camp—who is the No. 1 quarterback—is still unanswered. Kubiak and his staff are deliberating whether veteran Mark Sanchez or Trevor Siemian will start at Chicago on Thursday night, with a decision now expected Wednesday.

"I'm holding y'all off for one more day," Kubiak said.

Sanchez and Siemian are listed as co-No. 1s on the depth chart as neither has shown himself as the clear-cut starter for the Super Bowl champions.

Kubiak said he would meet later Tuesday with his staff to decide who would take the first offensive snap Thursday. He said the game plan is to play Sanchez and Siemian a quarter each, and to have rookie Paxton Lynch play the second half against the Bears.

"What we want to do is put a number on reps and what we want to see from each one of them so that from an evaluation standpoint we're looking at things pretty equally," Kubiak said. "That's the most important thing right now."

Sanchez, in his eighth year, said the competition is healthy.

"I'm not worried about it," Sanchez said. "It's whenever Kubiak is ready to decide. It's his call all the way and we just have to keep competing for the whole season. It doesn't really matter what happens here."

The Broncos traded for Sanchez after Peyton Manning retired in March and Brock Osweiler signed with Houston two days later. Siemian, Denver's third quarterback for most of 2015, impressed in offseason workouts to make training camp a quarterback competition.

Siemian served as the backup for six games last year when Manning was hurt. He played in one game without throwing a pass. He is more familiar with the offense this year and says his comfort level has grown.

"I was pretty nervous last year. I wasn't getting a ton of reps," he said. "I was trying to get a grasp of the playbooks. In that sense, I think I'm a little more comfortable, as in I know my assignments. I know where my eyes need to go. There's a sense of, `I know what I'm doing."

Kubiak did say linebacker Von Miller, cornerback Aqib Talib and offensive tackle Russell Okung would not play. Defensive end DeMarcus Ware is on the non-football injury/illness list.

Talib returned to practice Monday and increased his workload Tuesday, but he is not ready to play Thursday.

Miller said he is physically ready to play, but his mental conditioning is not there yet. Miller had a busy offseason that included tough contract negotiations and several TV and public appearances following his MVP performance in Super Bowl 50.

"Whenever you take a break from football it's a process to get back to the game speed that I want to play at," he said. "I'm right there, I'm ready to go, but the Von I know I can be and I want to be, I'm not there yet. A week or two I should be all right."

Kubiak isn't worried about Miller or the other veterans not playing Thursday because he said the game is about the backups and getting to hit another team.

"We're tired of each other," he said. "We've been going at each other for a long time. It's time to go with each other."

Porcello strong again at home, Red Sox hold off Yanks

BOSTON (AP) — Rick Porcello continued to dominate at Fenway Park, and fans had to settle for a Red Sox victory without an appearance by Alex Rodriguez.

Porcello pitched eight solid innings, Matt Barnes cleaned up a mess created by closer Craig Kimbrel and Boston held on to beat the New York Yankees 5-3 on Tuesday night.

Kimbrel walked in a run with the bases loaded in the ninth before handing off to Barnes, who struck out Mark Teixeira for his first save. Boston returned home after going 5-6 on a West Coast trip.

"It was a big win for us. It came off a long, tough road trip," Porcello said. "So we started the homestand off the right way and it's a good way to start the series."

After falling behind early, the Red Sox scored three runs in the fifth to lead 5-2. Boston has won 10 of the last 14 meetings between the rivals. Dustin Pedroia had three RBI.

Porcello (15-3) allowed two runs and struck out six. He improved to 11-0 in 12 starts at home this season.

Luis Severino (1-7) allowed five runs and seven hits over 4 1/3 innings. It was his first start since being demoted to the minors in May.

Rodriguez did not play after announcing that this week's four games would be his last with the Yankees. Manager Joe Girardi said the plan is for Rodriguez to start the final game of the series on Thursday night. A-Rod will play his final game in pinstripes Friday night at home against Tampa Bay.

With the Red Sox leading in the ninth, a "We want A-Rod!" chant briefly broke out among sellout crowd.

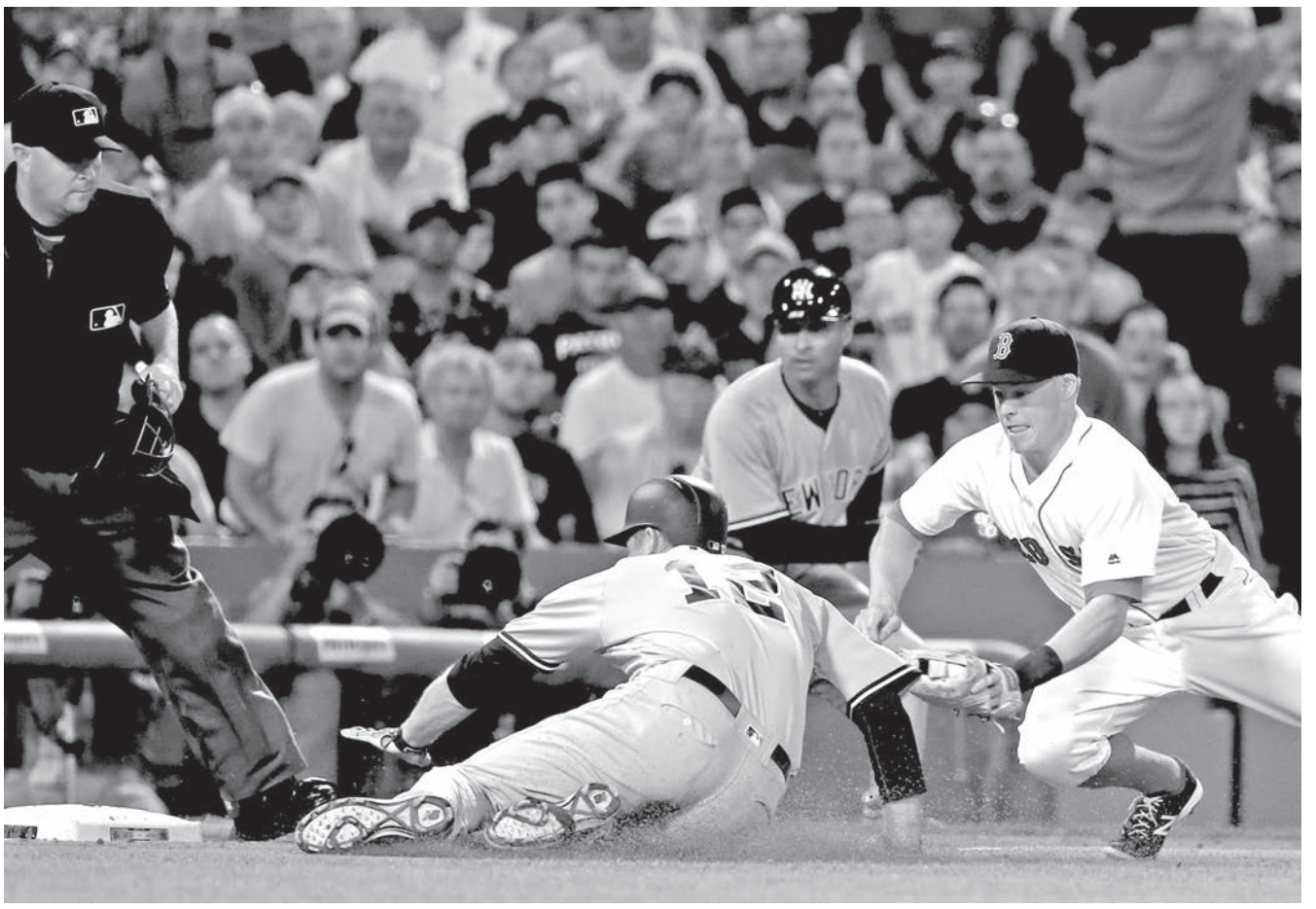
Rodriguez made his major league debut for Seattle at Fenway in 1994.

Things got tense for a moment in the seventh after Chase Headley was thrown out trying to stretch his double off the Green Monster into a triple. Benches cleared after Headley had words with Porcello, and the two briefly came face-to-face. Umpires quickly stepped in and were able to calm things.

Porcello declined to say what the specific issue was about.

"It was one of those moments where I felt like I needed to say something and I did," he said. "So it's between me and him. He knows what I said, and I'll leave it at that."

Headley also was mum about the incident.



Boston Red Sox's Brock Holt moves to tag out New York Yankees' Chase Headley, who tried to stretch a double into a triple during the sixth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.

Indians 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, Francisco Lindor singled to break up Max Scherzer's no-hit bid and scored in the seventh inning, and Trevor Bauer pitched the Cleveland Indians to a win over the Washington Nationals.

Jose Ramirez went 2 for 4 with an RBI double in the seventh and an RBI single in the ninth. Lonnie Chisenhall drove in Ramirez in the seventh while Cleveland cracked Scherzer after Bauer kept the Nationals at bay.

Cubs 5, Angels 1

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit his 28th home run, John Lackey outpitched friend and former teammate Jered Weaver, and Chicago beat Los Angeles for its eighth straight victory.

Willson Contreras also homered and Ben Zobrist added an RBI double for the major league-leading Cubs, who won their 70th game and moved a season-high 29 over .500.

Rangers 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, Adrian Beltre hit a two-run double, Elvis Andrus added a tiebreaking single and Texas scored four runs in the eighth inning to beat Colorado.

Alex Claudio (3-1) threw 2 1/3 scoreless innings of relief and Sam Dyson earned his 25th save in 28 chances.

Rays 9, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Drew Smyly pitched six innings to win his second straight decision, Logan Forsythe hit a solo homer and Tampa Bay defeated Toronto.

Evan Longoria reached base four times, scored twice and drove in three runs for the Rays. Forsythe had three hits, two RBI and scored twice as the Rays roughed up Toronto's bullpen, scoring six runs off two relievers.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 3

In New York, Zack Greinke won in his return from a six-week stay on the disabled list, Michael Bourn hit a go-ahead triple in the seventh inning and Arizona rallied past New York.

Paul Goldschmidt and late substitute Brandon Drury each homered for Arizona. The Diamondbacks also stole five bases, with a double steal setting up Bourn's two-run liner that erased a 3-2 deficit.

Marlins 2, Giants 0

In Miami, Tom Koehler pitched two-hit ball for seven innings to help Miami blank San Francisco, which fell into a first-place tie with the Dodgers in the NL West.

Giancarlo Stanton's RBI double and Marcell Ozuna's groundout in the first provided the scoring one night after the Giants won 8-7 in 14 innings.

Dodgers 9, Phillies 3

In Los Angeles, Howie Kendrick, Yasmani Grandal and Justin Turner homered, and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia to pull even with the Giants atop the NL West.

The Dodgers (64-49) are a season-best 15 games over .500 and have won four in a row. They were a season-high eight games behind the Giants on June 26.

Pirates 6, Padres 4

In Pittsburgh, Gregory Polanco hit a tiebreaking homer and Chad Kuhl pitched six innings for the win after being called up from the minors as Pittsburgh defeated San Diego.

Polanco's three-run drive off Luis Perdomo (5-6) put the Pirates ahead 5-2 and keyed a four-run sixth that included Francisco Cervelli's RBI double.

Braves 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Tyrell Jenkins pitched six strong innings, Nick Markakis and Adonis Garcia each drove in a run in the seventh and Atlanta beat Milwaukee.

Jenkins (2-2) allowed one run and three hits in his sixth major league start. The right-hander has a 1.00 ERA over his past three.

Astros 7, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Jose Altuve had four hits following a brief absence from the lineup, and Carlos Correa homered and drove in four runs to help Houston beat Minnesota.

Altuve was given the night off Monday, ending the longest active streak in the majors at 202 consecutive games played. He didn't miss a beat one day later, going 4 for 4 with a run and an RBI.

White Sox 7, Royals 5, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Todd Frazier hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and Justin Morneau had four hits to lift Chicago over Kansas City.

Frazier is tied for the major league lead with 31 home runs, and this one came on the first pitch from Kelvin Herrera (1-4) after a single by Jose Abreu and a double by Morneau.

Reds 7, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Adam Duvall drove in two runs and Tyler Holt hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning that sent Cincinnati past St. Louis.

Holt's double off Matt Bowman (1-4) broke a 4-all tie. Holt then scored from second on an infield hit after second baseman Matt Carpenter bobbled a barehanded attempt to get speedy Billy Hamilton.

Athletics 2, Orioles 1

In Oakland, Jake Smolinski reached base four times and scored the deciding run in the third inning, and rookie Zach Neal earned his first win as a starter when Oakland held on to beat Baltimore.

Danny Valencia and Khris Davis each drove in a run as the A's won consecutive games for the first time since July 26-27 to keep Wade Miley (7-10) winless in an Orioles uniform.

Prince Fielder done playing after 2nd surgery

TEXAS (AP)—Rangers slugger Prince Fielder will have to quit playing baseball after his second neck surgery.

A person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press that Fielder isn't formally retiring, but that doctors won't give the six-time All-Star medical clearance to play again. That person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because there was no official announcement from the Rangers or Fielder about his future.

The Rangers said only that Fielder would hold media availability Wednesday when the team returns home after an eight-game trip. Texas won at Colorado 7-5 on Tuesday.

Fielder, who is signed through 2020, had a cervical fusion on July 29 to repair a herniation between two disks in his neck. That was done just above the area where the 32-year-old Fielder had the same procedure in May 2014, only 26 months earlier.

He will finish his 12 MLB seasons with 319 career homers, the same number that his father Cecil Fielder had in 13 seasons but fewer games.

Before surgery in 2014, Prince Fielder had MLB's longest active streak of 547 consecutive games played. He played in 809 of 810 possible games from 2009-13 with Milwaukee and Detroit, after playing at least 157 games each of the three seasons before that.

The Rangers acquired Fielder from Detroit in November 2013 for second baseman Ian Kinsler.

Fielder hit .247 with three homers and 16 RBI over 42 games in 2014 before the first surgery. He came back to play 158 games in 2015, when he hit .305 with 23 homers and 98 RBI but slowed late in the season. The stout first baseman and designated hitter will finish this season at a career-low .212 with eight homers and 44 RBI in 89 games.

Fielder was only two years into a $214 million, nine-year contract when he got to Texas. His annual salary is $24 million each of the next four seasons, of which $6 million is due from the Tigers as part of the 2013 trade and the remaining $18 million from the Rangers, though half of their liability is expected to be covered by insurance.

Over 1,611 major league games with the Brewers (2005-11), Tigers (2012-13) and Rangers (2014-16), Fielder hit .283 with 1,028 RBI. The only other father-son duo with more than 300 homers each is Bobby and Barry Bonds. Cecil Fielder got his 319 homers in 1,470 games over 13 seasons with five teams.

Joshua, Jeremiah complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joshua and Jeremiah eased their way to the semifinals of the adults division of the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League after dominating their respective foes last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The seventh-seeded Joshua took the third semis berth and joined early Final Four qualifiers Isaiah and Ezekiel following an 83-67 upset over the second-ranked Gideon in the first game. Jeremiah got the fourth and last semis ticket after a similar double-digit win over Daniel, 71-59.

Michael Cabanas towed Jeremiah to a Final Four stint after scoring a game-high 27 points. He broke into twin digits early, making 10 as Jeremiah built a promising 30-15 advantage, going into the last three minutes of the opening half.

A 14-4 windup by Daniel, who got 4 points apiece from Marlon Ibanez, Jonathan Ibajan, and Lawrence Borja in that run, kept the team in the game at halftime, 29-35. However, Cabanas and company got back into the grove in the second half en route to the easy win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeremiah's Michael Cabanas pulls up for a shot against three Daniel defenders during their playoff game in the Genesis Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, Joshua was on target from downtown to stun Gideon, which finished the regular season with a 5-2 record against the former's 2-5 mark.

Joshua knocked in five triples in the first half to zoom to a 48-35 advantage. Arvin Daluyen drilled three of them, while Mark Puno and Ambet Omampo made one each.

Omampo added two more, while Puno capped Joshua's long-game dominance of Gideon with his second triple in the match to lead Joshua with his 22 points. Daluyen chipped in 21, while three other Joshua players scored in twin digits to eliminate Gideon. Omampo contributed 13, while Jay Nunag and Alain Nunez tallied 11 and 10, respectively. Rey Darag had 22 markers to pace Gideon, which only hit two triples in the quarterfinal match.

Meanwhile, Joshua and Jeremiah will square off in the second semifinals game tonight at 8pm, while the other Final Four pairing featuring Isaiah and Ezekiel will be played at 6:30pm.

First Game

Joshua 83 — M. Puno 22, Daluyen 21, Omampo 13, Nunag 11, Nunez 10, Paclibar 6.

Gideon 67 — Darag 33, De Leon 12, Balte 9, Dalusung 7, Perez 6, Gatdula 6, Sacdalan 5.

Scoring by halves: 48-35, 83-67.

Second Game

Jeremiah 71 — Cabanas 27, Conti 11, Buniag 9, Fatialofa 9, Cortez 8, Vergara 7.

Daniel 59 — Borja 17, Ibanez 16, Ibajan 14, Morales 10, Deang 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-29, 71-59.

ADA

From Page 28

companies have to be turned in no later than 10am on Sept. 7, 2016, while off-island firms must submit the notice of intent to bid via facsimile or email on the same date and the actual bid documents by Sept. 16, 2016. The winning bid will be given 180 days to complete the project.

"The Ada gym will undergo a total facelift. We will have a 'new' gym," Rogolifoi said.

Roofing and ventilation of the facility will be replaced. The old flooring will be removed in place of a new one (same materials), while all walls will be painted. New electric system will be installed.

"No more flooding at the gym. The bleachers will stay, but we will have a new scoreboard and PA system," Rogolifoi added.

Funds for the repair works will come from the $488,556 that NMSA got as a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and was obligated on Dec. 10, 2015 or more than four months after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan and damaged the facilities at the sports complex.

The remaining funds will be used for repairs and improvement of other sports facilities.

"We will work on the repairs of the Ada gym first before proceeding with our project for the baseball and softball fields," said Rogolifoi, who is also coordinating the resurfacing of the track and field facility.

"The complex will be very busy when the repair works start so we are asking the public to cooperate as we will all benefit from these projects when they are done," the NMSA official added.

Right now, only one league is being played at the Ada gym and the Gen Cup is on the final stages of its competition. The league's youth division will have its championship game this Saturday, while the adults category will play the semifinal matches tonight. The oval at the track and field facility, on the other hand, hasn't been used for competitions and only caters to joggers, while the pitch is being used for soccer practices and frisbee matches.

WOMEN

From Page 28

in all, and three more races in Rio to add to his almost unimaginable total.

No other Olympian has more than nine golds.

"That's a lot of medals," Phelps said, shaking his head. "It's just insane."

The 200 fly was the one he really wanted, and it showed.

With challengers all around, Phelps simply wouldn't be denied. With his head nearly at the wall, he took one more stroke to make sure he got there first, his arms slamming against the timing pad.

"Going into the finish I said, 'If I have to take a half-stroke, I'm going to take a half stroke,'" Phelps said.

That split-second decision got him to the wall ahead of everyone else, by a mere four-hundredths of a second.

When Phelps saw the "1" by his name, he held up one finger. Then he sat on a lane rope, egging on the roaring crowd at the Olympic Aquatics Center with both hands, before emphatically pumping his fist.

Tears welled in his eyes as he listened to the national anthem—until one of his buddies from Baltimore cracked him up that shouting out "O" like they do at Camden Yards before Orioles' games. Then, during the customary stroll around the pool to pose for photographers, Phelps broke ranks and bounded into the stands to plant a kiss on Boomer, the son who symbolizes just how much Phelps' life has changed since a second drunken-driving arrest two years ago.

"I wanted to hold him longer," Phelps said. "It's good to see he's awake. He usually sleeps all the time."

Phelps held off Japan's Masato Sakai with a time of 1 minute, 53.36 seconds, but that number was of little concern.

The only thing that mattered was beating everyone else.

"The last 10 meters were not fun," Phelps said. "My gosh, I thought I was standing still."

Meanwhile, Ledecky strode atop the medal podium again with a bright smile after taking gold for winning the 200-meter freestyle. Sarah Sjostrom of Sweden claimed the silver and Emma McKeon of Australia took the bronze.

Ledecky, just 19, won her second gold. At this pace, she could challenge Phelps' medal haul someday.

At the other end of Olympic Park, the U.S. women's gymnastics team captured a second straight gold with a high-flying and dominating performance.

The triumph was never in doubt, their score of 184.897 at the Rio Games was more than eight points clear of the field. The day was capped by the 19-year-old Biles, a fan favorite, whose boundary-pushing floor exercise showed just how far ahead they are of everyone else.

Biles, Lauren Hernandez, Gabby Douglas, Madison Kocian and Aly Raisman also gave retiring national team coordinator Martha Karolyi a fitting send off with powerful performances on all the apparatuses.

MEDAL STRIPPED : A Ukrainian javelin thrower was stripped of his silver medal from the 2012 London Olympics, becoming the latest athlete disqualified after the retesting of stored doping samples. Oleksandr Pyatnytsya tested positive for the steroid turinabol and was retroactively disqualified from the London Games and ordered to return his medal, the International Olympic Committee said.

RUGBY STUNNER : Sonny Bill Williams was helped off with an ankle injury during New Zealand's shocking 14-12 loss to Japan in its first game of rugby sevens. New Zealand is a 12-time world series champion and one of the top contenders for the first rugby medals awarded at an Olympics in 92 years.

PELE IMPROVING: Pele tweeted that he hopes to appear at the closing ceremony after missing the opening because of his health. The soccer great was the organizers' preferred choice to light the cauldron, but first cited sponsorship commitments and later health concerns for staying away.

BSI

From Page 28

innings and after giving up two earned runs and five hits since he took over from Juan Iguel late in the third, Tudela shut down the Brewers from the seventh to ninth inning, yielding only one hit while striking out three.

The relief pitcher earlier gave up a two-RBI single to Anthony Tenorio at the top of the sixth and the latter also scored off an Aces error, while Jesse Brel reached off another miscues from the eventual first finalist to help the Brewers grab the lead, 5-4. An RBI single from Diego Camacho at the top of the second inning put the Brewers on the board.

The BSI Aces, on the other hand, got their first run early with leadoff batter Verlance Secharmidal reaching off a fielder's choice at the bottom of the opening inning. The Aces went to score, too in the second and third to take the 4-1 advantage. Angel Falig hit an RBI single in the second, while Mike Iguel had an RBI double and his brother Lamarc reached off a sacrifice fly from Eric Palacios in the third.

The BSI Aces failed to light up the board in the next two innings, but hung on to the lead as the Brewers were also without a run from the third to fifth before rallying at the top of the sixth. At the bottom sixth, the BSI Aces were done after only four batters with relief pitcher Vince Cepeda fanning out Falig and Luis Iguel and Jones flying out at left field, leaving Secharmidal stranded at first.

The BSI Aces then redeemed themselves at the top of the seventh, forcing the Brewers to a 1-2-3 inning as Tudela struck out Manny Sablan and Ricardo Dela Cruz, and Pat Alepuyo went down on a 6-3 play. While the Aces made big defensive stops at the top seventh, the Brewers committed errors at the bottom, allowing Tudela to score and tie the match. Cepeda walked Tudela and the former made it all the way home off the Brewers' successive booboos with two outs. The Aces had a chance to break the standoff as Juan Iguel was at third base and Palacios at first with two outs, however a 1-3 putout play on Falig foiled their bid.

The BSI Aces were also one step away from the winning run at the bottom of the ninth after Tudela singled, stole second, and advanced to third off a Brewers error with two outs. However, he and Juan Iguel were left stuck at third and second, respectively, after Cepeda fanned out Falig to extend the match.

At the top of the extra inning, it was the Brewers' turn to try to regain the lead as they loaded the bases with only one out. However, the BSI Aces' defense stepped up anew as they got the two straight outs to frustrate the Brewers. Secharmidal caught a fly from Tyrone Omar, while shorts stop Lamarc Iguel and first baseman Palacios teamed up in booting out Byron Kaipat.

The Aces were also called for back-to-back outs at the bottom of the 10th with Luis Iguel and Secharmidal going out on 4-3 and 6-3 plays, respectively. Next at bat was Jones and he advanced to first off Cepeda's error and stole second. Jones then moved closer home off a miscue from third baseman Sablan, while Lamarc Iguel made it to first off a fielder's choice. Jones went on to reach home off Tudela's hit—the latter's only RBI in Game 2.

Tudela was 3-for-5 at bat and scored two runs.

Meanwhile, Game 1 of the best-of-five finals will be played this Friday.

Out of sorts, Serena upset at Olympics by Svitolina

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Out of sorts and out of answers, defending champion Serena Williams is out of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Shanking shots of all sorts, including five - yes, five! - double-faults in one game alone, Williams lost to Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 6-4, 6-3 in the third round in a real shocker Tuesday, ending the No. 1-seeded American's bid to become the first tennis player to collect a pair of singles golds.

"It didn't work out the way I wanted it to," Williams said.

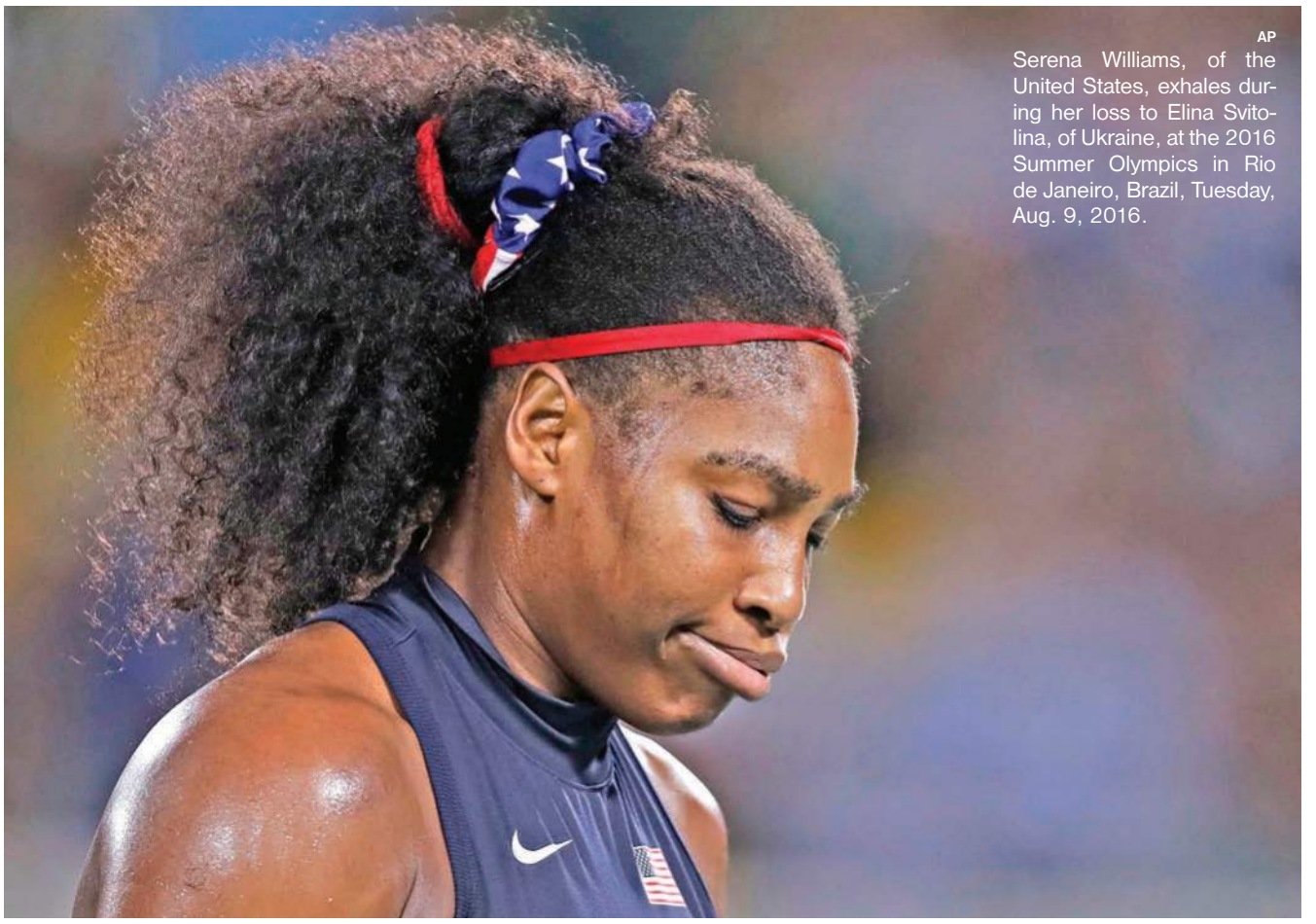
Facing an unheralded opponent who at times couldn't seem to miss, Williams had problems right from the start, when she got broken to fall behind 2-1 with a badly missed overhead into the net.

That set a pattern.

By the end, Svitolina had won 63 points, but merely nine came via clean winners of her own doing. The others came thanks to Williams' 37 unforced errors and 17 forced errors.

"The better player won," said Williams, who did not take questions from the media after the match and instead did a brief interview with a U.S. Tennis Association spokesman who shared the audio with reporters.

After winning golds in singles and doubles at the 2012 London Olympics, Williams heads home from Brazil with nothing. She and her older sister Venus, who sat in the stands Tuesday, lost in the first round as the No. 1 seed in women's doubles—their first defeat in the Olympics after going 15-0 with three golds.



AP

Serena Williams, of the United States, exhales during her loss to Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.

Of the four tennis events under way in Rio—mixed doubles hasn't started yet—all four No. 1 seeds are gone, including Novak Djokovic in men's singles.

No one in the history of Olympic tennis has ever won two gold medals in singles, and while Williams won't achieve that this week, Andy Murray or Rafael Nadal still could.

Both moved into the third round Tuesday. Neither has been tested much, dropping a total of nine games apiece so far.

This is Nadal's first tournament since he pulled out of the French Open in May with an injured tendon sheath in his left wrist, and the No. 3 seed wasn't even sure he would compete until testing his arm once he arrived in Brazil. Still, everything is going exactly to plan for the owner of 14 Grand Slam championships and the 2008 Beijing Olympic title, who beat Italy's Andreas Seppi 6-3, 6-3.

"Not much pressure for me," Nadal said. "Two months without competing, I don't expect much."

Murray, who won gold at the 2012 London Games and is seeded No. 2, breezed past Argentina's Juan Monaco 6-3, 6-1.

The women's quarterfinals are set: Svitolina vs. Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic; Angelique Kerber of Germany vs. Johanna Konta of Britain; Madison Keys of the U.S. vs. Daria Kasatkina of Russia; and Monica Puig of Puerto Rico vs. Laura Siegemund of Germany.

No. 3 Garbine Muguruza, who beat Williams to win the French Open title, also lost Tuesday, 6-1, 6-1 against Puig.

The 20th-ranked Svitolina never before played in the Olympics and only once has been to a major quarterfinal. She also entered the night 0-4 against Williams, an owner of 22 Grand Slam singles championships.

"Unreal feeling," Svitolina said after the biggest win of her career, adding: "It's so special to beat her here."

Their most recent match came at the French Open, and Williams won 6-1, 6-1.

Give credit this time to Svitolina, who played a fearless brand of big-strike tennis, sending deep groundstrokes off both wings toward lines and managing to put most right where she wanted them.

"I'm really happy I could take risks," Svitolina said.

She ended the first set with an ace and a blank stare, as if this were no big deal and she knew she would do this all along.

Afterward, she sounded as if she did.

"I was expecting that I can play well, as well, and just push her to her limits," Svitolina said. "Obviously, she was not playing well today."

US women's soccer tops group after draw with Colombia

MANAUS, Brazil (AP)—In the first few moments Hope Solo had to reflect following the U.S. team's 2-2 draw with Colombia on Tuesday, she already had perspective on the two goals that Catalina Usme got past her.

"I've been around the game long enough to know that it's part of the position," Solo said. "I don't wish it on anybody. Being a goalkeeper is extremely difficult. But I've been around long enough to know that these things do happen, they've happened to me before.

"You just hope that they happen few and far between."

The draw, while disappointing, did not have much impact on the defending Olympic champions. The United States still emerged at the top of Group G and will play Sweden in Brasilia on Friday in the quarterfinals.

Usme beat Solo with a pair of free kicks. The first, in the 26th minute, was Colombia's first ever Olympic goal, and first ever goal against the United States.

The second came from a tight angle as time ran out.

"I have also learned to have a short-term memory," Solo said. "So I'm just going to put this behind me and move on, because there's going to be some great football in the coming games and I'm going to have to come up big and keep our team in it."

At 18, Mallory Pugh became the youngest player to score for the United States in an Olympics with her goal in the 59th minute, giving the Americans a 2-1 lead. Olympic newcomer Crystal Dunn also scored.

The U.S. women's team, the reigning World Cup champions, is vying for its fourth straight Olympic gold medal.

"It is what it is," United States captain Carli Lloyd said. "I'd rather two goals get let in like that in this game, than in a quarterfinal, a semifinal or a final match. Do we all know that we can play a lot better? Of course. But we met our objective and it's important to stay positive and take what we can out of these games."

Pugh came into the game as a first-half substitute for midfielder Megan Rapinoe, who played in her first match since having ACL surgery in December.

In addition to Rapinoe, United States coach Jill Ellis made several other changes to her starting lineup, sitting regular starters Alex Morgan, Tobin Heath and Meghan Klingenberg. Julie Johnston, who sat out the second game with groin injury, was also on the bench.

Morgan came in after the half for Lloyd. Pugh, who hurt her ankle in the 2-0 opening win against New Zealand, went in when Rapinoe was pulled in the 33rd minute as temperatures hovered in the upper 80s.

Even Olympic selfies are complicated by Koreas' rivalry

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Nothing is ever easy for the rival Koreas, even that most ubiquitous and usually innocent of Olympic interactions, the selfie.

Like dozens of athletes at the Rio de Janeiro Games, gymnasts Hong Un Jong of North Korea and Lee Eun-ju of South Korea met on the sidelines during competition and training.

The 17-year-old Lee, who is at her first Olympics, posed Thursday for a smiling selfie with Hong, a 27-year-old veteran. That friendly encounter and others between the two were captured by journalists -- and immediately took on larger significance for two countries still technically at war.

Such meetings are not illegal in South Korea, but they are complicated by the two countries' long history of animosity and bloodshed.

Hong became the first female gymnast from North Korea to win a gold medal in 2008, when Lee was 9 and living in her native Japan. Lee moved to South Korea in 2013 because her Korean father wanted her to learn more about the country's culture.

A few days after the selfie was taken, Lee and Hong met again Sunday while on the floor at the same time during preliminary competition. Lee was eliminated, while Hong will compete in the vault final.

IOC President Thomas Bach described the selfie as a "great gesture."

"Fortunately, we see quite a few of these gestures here during the Olympic Games," Bach said Tuesday.

Photos of their warm moments delighted many South Koreans and provided a rare note of concord in otherwise abysmal relations between the rivals. It is unclear if the gymnasts' interaction was seen in the North, an authoritarian state with extremely limited press freedom and where access to outside media is usually blocked.

The Korean Peninsula is still technically in a state of war because there has been no peace treaty signed to officially end the 1950-53 Korean War. Nearly 30,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea, and the neighbors regularly trade insults and warnings of war, including recent threats from the North of missile strikes on Seoul and its ally, Washington.

A web of laws, most left over from the days when the South was ruled by a dictatorship, govern how South Koreans are supposed to interact with North Koreans. Travel and communication are severely restricted; even praising the North is illegal in the South.

South Koreans are required by law to obtain government permission for any planned meeting, communication or other contact with North Koreans.

This requirement is waived for spontaneous interactions with North Koreans that can happen during foreign travel. But South Koreans must still provide an account of what happened to the South Korean Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean issues, within seven days, according to the laws.

The Unification Ministry said that South Korean athletes at international sporting competitions like the Olympics aren't required to submit reports about their encounters with North Koreans because it's obvious that their purpose of participating in the events has nothing to do with meeting North Koreans.

Colts keeping quiet about details of new-look offense

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Sports

Out of sorts, Serena upset at Olympics by Svitolina

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BSI Aces dethrone GSM Brewers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The BSI Aces ended the GSM Brewers' two-year reign in the Saipan Baseball League after a tough 6-5 win in Game 2 of their semis series last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

John Tudela led the Aces's sweep of the Brewers, who ruled the 2014 and 2015 editions of the SBL, as he made the winning hit at the bottom of the extra inning. The Aces' starting centerfielder batted fifth for his team at the bottom of the 10th inning with two outs and Ben Jones at third and Lamarc Iguel at first. Tudela hit his target with his single bringing Jones home and the Aces to the best-of-five finals series against the winner of the rubber match between the Chalan Kanoa Bears and Titanium last night.

Besides delivering the dagger, Tudela also scored the game-tying run at the bottom of the seventh. He worked the mound, too for the Aces in 6.1

See BSI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The BSI Aces' Ben Jones waits for the pitch during the bottom of the fourth inning of Game 2 of their semis series against the GSM Brewers in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ada gym repair project moving forward

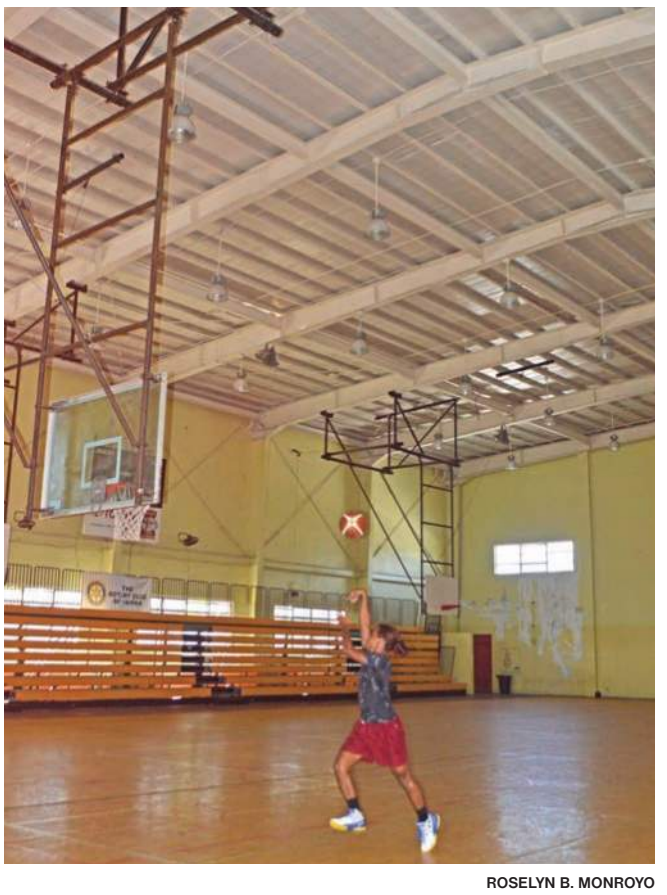
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Good news for users of the battered Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium: An invitation for bids for the repairs and renovation works at the facility has been released early this month.

"The project is moving forward with the release of the invitation for bids. We're very happy about this latest development," said Tony Rogolifoi, executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association, which oversees the operation and maintenance of the Ada gym and other facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Office of the Secretary of Public Works released the invitation for bids on Aug. 1 and 8, while a mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled this Monday. Bids from local

See ADA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will soon undergo a facelift as an invitation for bids for the repairs and renovation of the facility has been out.

Women gymnasts, Phelps, Ledecky all golden again

OLYMPIC GAMES Rio2016 Roundup

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Good old Michael Phelps, golden again.

For teenagers Katie Ledecky and Simone Biles, their star turns in the Summer Olympics might be just beginning.

From the pool to the gymnastics floor, Team USA had nice day at the Rio de Janeiro Games.

Not all the American stars were winners Tuesday, though. Serena Williams lost on the tennis court and the U.S. women's soccer team gave up a late goal and ended up in a draw with Colombia.

But a new generation of U.S. athletes is ready to take up the banner of Olympic standard-bearer from Phelps, a grizzled veteran at 31.

Phelps earned his 20th career gold medal after taking the 200-meter butterfly. He erased the bad memories from his loss in the same race in London to South African Chad le Clos.

Phelps got off to a rousing start at the Rio Games by leading his 4x100 freestyle team to the gold medal on Sunday.

On Tuesday, Phelps' face bared a familiar scowl as he walked out on to the deck. He held off Japan's Masato Sakai by four-hundredths of a second, with Hungary's Tamas Kenderesi taking the bronze.

His 21st gold came later Tuesday night after swimming the anchor leg on the 4x200-meter relay.

"That was probably one of my most challenging doubles," the 31-year-old Phelps said. "Doing a double like that is a lot harder than it once was."

It was another performance for the ages, but Phelps has done it so many times that nothing else would have been fitting. It came on a night that American teammate Katie Ledecky picked up her second gold of the Rio Olympics on the way to what could be a historic run of her own in the pool.

Phelps now has 25 medals

See WOMEN on Page 26

AP
United States' Michael Phelps shows his gold medal after winning the men's 200-meter butterfly during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio2016
MEDAL COUNT
COUNTRIES G S B T
UNITED STATES 9 8 9 26
CHINA 8 3 6 17
HUNGARY 4 1 1 6
AUSTRALIA 4 0 5 9
RUSSIAN 3 6 3 12
ITALY 3 4 2 9
SOUTH KOREA 3 2 1 6
JAPAN 3 1 10 14
FRANCE 2 3 1 6
THAILAND 2 1 1 4
GREAT BRITAIN 1 3 2 6
GERMANY 1 2 0 3
SWEDEN 1 2 0 3
BRAZIL 1 1 0 2
TAIWAN 1 0 2 3
BELGIUM 1 0 1 2
GREECE 1 0 1 2
NETHERLANDS 1 0 1 2
ARGENTINA 1 0 0 1
COLOMBIA 1 0 0 1
CROATIA 1 0 0 1
KOSOVO 1 0 0 1
SLOVENIA 1 0 0 1
VIETNAM 1 0 0 1
INDONESIA 0 2 0 2
As of 5:00 p.m. August 10, 2016

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